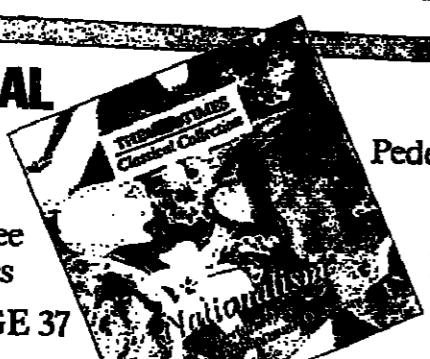


CLASSICAL CDs

Your chance to collect three compact discs
Details, PAGE 37



Feet first

Pedestrian zones could revive the heart of London, P35
Leading article, P19

THE AMIS LETTERS

...and other literary rows
PAGE 17

Demonisation of Cherie Blair

Nigella Lawson on the motives behind the smears
PAGE 17

Welcome to the intelligent house

The home front of the future
PLUS: chance to win fax/copiers

Ruling on 48-hour week is nonsense, says Major



Left and Right gang up on Centre

THE word "convergence" recurred again and again during Commons discussion yesterday of Malcolm Rifkind's White Paper approach to European negotiations.

After the Foreign Secretary sat down, backbenchers on both sides rose to blame — or praise — the idea that European economies should converge. Dale Campbell-Savours (Lab, Workington), was in favour of convergence. Others, Euro-sceptics on both sides, were against it.

But the convergence they were discussing (the economic kind) was less interesting than

Political Sketches
Matthew Parris

two convergences none seemed to notice. The left wing of the Labour Party are converging with the right wing of the Tory Party. They both hate the EU. They are ganging up on the front benches of both their parties to say so.

Meanwhile, the Tory Front Bench is converging with the Labour Front Bench. In a nutshell, they're both scared of anti-EU anger in their parties and anxious to keep it at bay.

Thus, Mr Rifkind, adopting his bold manner, stormed his way through a ten-point shopping list of groceries he was determined to bring

Continued on Page 2, col 4

Britain urges cut in power of Euro court

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

INSIDE

Court ruling	2
White Paper	8
Peter Riddell	8
Federal fears	9
Simon Jenkins	18
Leading article	19

way that the Community's ministers had not intended.

He sees the judgment on fishing quotas introduced to protect member states, as a prime example. These have now been interpreted as a licence to allow other fishermen to fish in British waters.

Mr Rifkind also wants to stop in their tracks ideas being floated within the European Parliament for fiscal measures — which can only be dealt with by unanimous agreement — to be taken on to single market or environmental proposals, which are covered by majority voting.

The Advocate General's advice would require ministers to introduce a maximum 48-hour week unless employers specifically negotiated longer hours with their workers. That flies in the face of the British opt-out from the social chapter and was immediately denounced by John Major, who told the Commons: "This sort of European legislation is ludicrous and we will continue to tell our partners in Europe that is the case."

It is precisely because of legislation like this and stupidities like this that the EU is becoming uncompetitive and losing jobs to other parts of the world. It is a complete nonsense and it is time that people began to stand up and say so."

Mr Rifkind's declaration that he was prepared to seek treaty changes pleased some

Eurosceptics who regard a "repatriation" of powers from Brussels as an essential demand. While treaty reforms could happen only by unanimous agreement, ministers believe his stance gives Britain an important bargaining counter in the talks, which start in Turin on March 29.

Sir Michael Spicer, who led the Maastricht rebellion but now chairs the European Research Group, said the White Paper had given hope to those who believed that taking back powers from the court was the way to block a federal Europe. But hardline sceptics made no attempt to hide their view that it would not stop the drive towards a federal Europe.

The 38-page document treads a careful path between the two wings of the party, rejecting any move towards the gradual development of a United States of Europe and declaring that the bedrock of the European Union was the nation state.

But it also underlined in ringing terms the benefits of EU membership. Mr Major in a foreword said: "The UK has to be at the heart of the debate to make clear its views about the future of the EU because it is our future and the future of our continent."

The document added: "We are committed to the success of the EU and to playing a positive role in achieving that success."

To avoid the risk of conflict, it barely mentioned monetary union or a referendum. Mr Rifkind's paper to the Cabinet on the implications of a referendum, including the issue of whether the Cabinet would be bound by a decision on a single currency, is expected within weeks.

Continued on page 2, col 2

China opens fire

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINESE ships and aircraft criss-crossed in an offshore exercise firing live ammunition less than 100 miles from Taiwan yesterday as Peking signalled it will not tolerate the island's rising international profile.

On Quemoy and Matsu, the two Taiwanese islands close to the mainland, soldiers bolstered defences against a possible lightning strike. With two American naval task forces either in the area or on the way, tensions were reaching levels not seen since the late 1950s.

We support the sensible precautions being taken by the

Graffiti vandal given five years

A graffiti vandal who carried out an 18-month campaign spraying murals on buildings and vehicles has been jailed for five years.

The 23-year-old's graffiti, which he also marked with his trademark symbol, a clenched fist, became a familiar sight throughout South Yorkshire. Sheffield Crown Court was told..... Page 6

Dole health fears

As Robert Dole drives inexorably towards the Republican nomination, some party members fear that he may not be strong enough physically to survive the battle for the White House..... Page 15

Adams is embarrassing dinner guest for US hosts

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND NICHOLAS WATT

GERRY ADAMS, ostracised by the British, Irish and American Governments since the IRA ceasefire collapsed, will attend a dinner in Washington tomorrow whose guest list includes the First Lady, John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, a British minister, and David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader.

Sources said organisers of the American Ireland Fund event were embarrassed by the Sinn Fein leader's presence but could do little about it. Mr Adams has been invited by a Irish-American family from Boston — the Dunleys — that has bought five tables' worth of tickets.

Hillary Clinton, who is accepting a peace award on the President's behalf, represents an Administration that has

barred formal contacts with

Mr Adams. Baroness Denton of Wakefield, the Northern Ireland Minister, and Mo Mowlam, the Labour spokeswoman, have been warned in

advance of Mr Adams's presence.

An American official said

yesterday that the ceasefire's collapse was "a kick in the face

for the Administration

and that's how Gerry Adams will be received. There's no one here who understands this resumption of violence."

In Belfast, the IRA admitted

planting the bomb which exploded in Fulham, west

London, at the weekend.

Letters, page 19

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

Buying The Times overseas
Australia \$1.40; Belgium B Frs 80;
Canada \$1.25; Cdn\$1.25; Cyprus £1.25; Denmark Dkr 12;
France F 1.25; Germany DM 4.50; Gibraltar 90p;
Greece Dr 500; Netherlands F 1.50;
Ireland £1.25; Italy L 60; Malta £1.25;
Luxembourg L 60; Madeira Esc 350;
Malta 45c; Morocco Dir 27.00; Norway Kr 32; Portugal 40c; Spain 50c; Switzerland Frs 32;
Sweden Kr 4.00; Tunisia Dir 2.000; USA \$1.50.

11

Dinosaurs were the first trombonists

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

SCIENTISTS say they can re-create the cry of a dinosaur, 75 million years after its final lament echoed across the American wilderness.

The acoustic breakthrough follows the discovery in New Mexico of a fossil of the parasaurolophus, a duck-billed dinosaur with a distinctive, rear-peaked head. Advances in the science of stereolithography — the use of laser to make three-dimensional objects in plastic — mean that the dinosaur's head can be rebuilt.

The parasaurolophus's skull contained trachea-shaped air passages that probably gave the creature a deep moan.

similar to the lower notes on a brass instrument. The sound will shortly be heard at the Sandia National Laboratory, New Mexico, where data from the dinosaur fossil has been run through a computer and where air will be sent through a PVC replica of the head in the manner of a trombonist playing a note.

The Sandia National Laboratory, administered by the Department of Energy, is the hub of American nuclear weapon research. It was chosen for the project by Robert Sullivan, a curator at the Museum of Pennsylvania, who found the fossil in New Mexico last summer.

Michael Brett-Surman, a dinosaur consultant from the Smithsonian Institu-

tion in Washington DC, said yesterday: "To hear the sound of a dinosaur from 75 million years ago would be exciting in a scientific sense, although dinosaur hearing was poor and operated at the lower end of the register."

He emphasised that the Sandia researchers would need to line the skull's air passages with a material similar to cellular mucus and dinosaur cartilage, otherwise it might not resonate to a genuine degree. If the experiences of the brass band hold firm, the length of the air passage will dictate the tone of the note. Thus, the older dinosaur, with its longer tubes, will have had a deeper "voice" than its young.

Letters, page 19

Fierce winds whip up snowy danger

By ROBIN YOUNG
AND PAUL WILKINSON

HIGH winds and driving snow caused widespread disruption yesterday to traffic and power services. At least 14,000 homes in Scotland were without power and television and radio transmitters were damaged by winds up to 80mph. Emergency shelters were set up to provide hot food and warmth for anyone whose power was not reconnected.

Overnight snow also hit northern and western England and the Midlands, bringing treacherous driving conditions. Cross-Pennine routes were closed from the A57 Snake Pass between Sheffield and Manchester to the A69 between Carlisle and Newcastle.

In West Yorkshire, where up to four inches of snow fell, one driver took three hours to travel the 18 miles from Ilkley to Leeds, which usually takes 30 minutes. Commuters claimed not enough had been done to keep roads clear, but councils said gritters and snow ploughs had been working long before the rush-hour.

Routine outpatients in Bradford had their appointments cancelled as ambulances concentrated on emergency calls. Janet Walter, of West Yorkshire Ambulance Service, said: "We have our 4x4 ambulances on the road now to get to those with life-threatening conditions."

In Cumbria, firemen rescued two men trapped on the roof of their car in a river swollen by torrential rain. They stalled while crossing a ford near Cleator Moor.

Snow falls were expected to stop during the evening, but forecasters warned of drifts caused by continuing strong winds.

The Government offered financial aid to communities in Scotland hit by floods. George Kynoch, Local Government Minister, said that authorities in Grampian would be able to claim towards emergency costs incurred after record rainfall caused flooding last September and Renfrew District Council will receive nearly £170,000 towards the cost of clearing up after the Paisley floods in December 1994.

Forecast, page 24

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN BRUSSELS



Hunt was seen to have reneged on deal

THE Government's defeat in the European Court of Justice yesterday had been seen as a vital round in its fight to annul the EU law setting the maximum compulsory working week at 48 hours and imposing rest periods and holidays.

In another rebuff to Britain from the Luxembourg court, the body's legal adviser decided there were no grounds for accepting any of the Government's arguments, the one being that the law had nothing to do with the issue of health and safety. The full court, which will pronounce on the case in the summer, rarely issues rulings that differ from the opinion of its advisers, the advocates-general.

The Brussels Commission welcomed the opinion by Philippe Léger, one of nine advocates-general. "We are pleased that his reasoning does not give satisfaction to the UK on any of the grounds on which it complained," a spokeswoman for Padraig Flynn, the Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, said.

British lawyers argued before the court in January that the directive, passed by EU member states in November 1993, had been disguised as a

Fisheries chief gives warning on fleet cut

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN was told yesterday that it faces legal action by the European Commission if it does not cut the size of its fishing fleet by the end of this year. Emma Bonino, the Fisheries Commissioner, said it had fallen behind targets by 15 to 20 per cent.

She also defended the practice of "quota hopping" by Spanish and other foreign vessels. The White Paper calls

for rule changes to stop foreign boats registering in Britain and taking a share of the British fleet's fish quota. It says quota hopping "prevents fishing communities from enjoying a secure benefit from national quotas".

Signora Bonino said the foreign boats "must be allowed to go about their business without let or hindrance".

The court's likely decision, coming after last week's order that Britain pay compensation to Spanish fishermen, is certain to fuel arguments in Britain for a curb in the Court's powers and the creation of some avenue of appeal against its decisions.

According to the Trades Union Congress, a third of Britain's professionals and managers work more than 48 hours; 30 per cent of plant operatives and 25 per cent of craft workers also exceed the 48-hour mark.

White Paper, pages 8 and 9

Simon Jenkins, page 18

Leading article, page 19

Britain moves to curtail Euro court powers

Continued from page 1
Yesterday, the leading sceptics concentrated their fire on the European court, which Norman Lamont described as an integral part of progress towards a European superstate.

John Redwood, the defeated leadership contender, said: "The Court is off the leash and the loose, overweening Acts of Parliament, destroying our fishing industry and changing our employment laws. It is threatening our

veto of the social chapter. Parliament should immediately assert its rights."

Jonathan Aitken, a member of the Cabinet until last summer, gave a warning that unless the Government could win the vital battles ahead, MPs would have to start to seriously consider the option of withdrawal from the EU.

Mr Rifkind told the Commons that Britain was "unambiguously committed" to its membership of the EU. But

he added: "The Government believes the EU will only succeed if it respects the integrity of the independent democratic nation states which comprise its membership, and if it is flexible enough to accommodate their political and cultural differences. The Government is totally opposed to a monolithic, centralised federal Europe."

■ Bernard Connolly, the senior European Commission official dismissed after attacking plans for a single

currency, conceded last night that monetary union is likely to begin in 1999.

Mr Connolly, whose book on the workings of the European Commission enraged senior European politicians, told the Commons Treasury Select Committee that a single currency "is more likely to happen in 1999 than later" and that Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and Austria were likely to join France and Germany.

The command insisted that democracy was the only way forward. It added: "We are convinced that sufficient political agreement can be reached to allow all of our citizens to have an equal and meaningful stake in the new society that is coming."

The statement is a clear warning to the IRA that its renewed campaign will prompt loyalists to retaliate even if republicans refuse their violence to the mainland.

Gary McMichael, the leader of the Ulster Democratic Party, the political wing of the UDA, said: "This statement is saying that the road the IRA is travelling is a very dangerous road. It will inevitably lead to confrontation between the two communities."

Loyalists would give as good as they got.

Aubergine hailed

Muslims claimed a miracle after Salim and Ruksana Patel, from Bolton, found the name of God in an aubergine. The couple found the Arabic word for Allah formed by seeds. Abdullah Patel, their priest, said: "This clearly shows our God exists."

Midland

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

NEW INTEREST RATES

New Business Rates effective from 13th March 1996

Gross % Gross CAR %

Money Master	Up to £5,000	2.58	2.60
	£5,000+	2.78	2.80
	£25,000+	3.07	3.10
	£100,000+	3.26	3.30
	£250,000+	3.51	3.55
Premium Business Account	£5,000+	3.89	3.95
	£25,000+	4.41	4.50
	£100,000+	4.65	4.75
	£250,000+	4.89	5.00
Clients Premium Deposit Account	£25,000+	3.72	3.75
	£100,000+	4.16	4.20
Treasury Account	Up to £2,000	1.00	1.00
	£2,000+	1.25	1.25
	£10,000+	3.21	3.25

Gross The rate before the deduction of income tax. CAR Compounded Annual Rate, or the Gross return taking into account the frequency of interest payments. All rates are quoted per annum.

The Listening Bank

Member HSBC Group
Midland Bank plc.

Government angered partner states by going to court

Defeat on working hours a severe blow to ministers

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN BRUSSELS



Hunt was seen to have reneged on deal

THE Government's defeat in the European Court of Justice yesterday had been seen as a vital round in its fight to annul the EU law setting the maximum compulsory working week at 48 hours and imposing rest periods and holidays.

The directive, due to take effect this year, imposes a 48-hour per week limit, including overtime. It also requires breaks every six hours and a minimum daily rest of at least 11 straight hours, and four weeks of paid holiday. The directive exempted certain categories such as medical personnel and police.

who charge the court with applying a political agenda, the advocate-general added that health and safety should have a broad interpretation and that a more restrictive approach would "run counter to the trend in our society".

The directive, due to take effect this year, imposes a 48-hour per week limit, including overtime. It also requires breaks every six hours and a minimum daily rest of at least 11 straight hours, and four weeks of paid holiday. The directive exempted certain categories such as medical personnel and police.

Britain, whose workers put in longer hours than those of all other EU states, persuaded its partners at the time to accept a seven-year grace period before it would have to apply the law. Britain also won a provision to allow employees to volunteer for longer hours provided that certain conditions were met.

Britain's partners were angered when David Hunt, the Employment Secretary at the time, took them to court because they had negotiated a compromise on the understanding that Britain would accept the watered-down directive. "There was a lot of bad feeling that London went straight to the court so there is not much sympathy that it is losing," a Continental diplomat said yesterday.

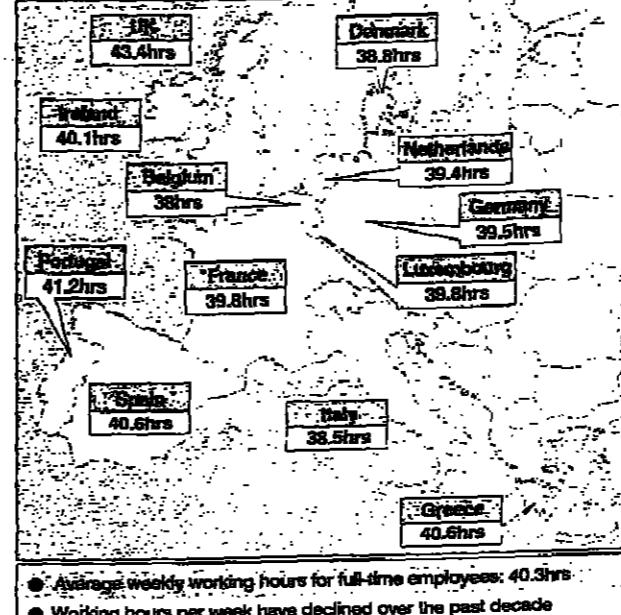
The court's likely decision, coming after last week's order that Britain pay compensation to Spanish fishermen, is certain to fuel arguments in Britain for a curb in the Court's powers and the creation of some avenue of appeal against its decisions.

As well as a maximum 48-hour week, the Advocate-General says that all workers will be entitled to a rest of 11 consecutive hours in every 24 hours and three weeks paid leave — and from 1999 four weeks — in every year. Employers who failed to comply could leave themselves open to legal action.

Business leaders said that if Britain had to put a 48-hour maximum week into practice it would hit competitiveness.

John Cridland of the Confederation of British Industry said: "If we have to implement

Europe's weekly working hours 1993



● Average weekly working hours for full-time employees: 40.5 hrs.

● Working hours per week have declined over the past decade.

● There is a downward trend in annual working hours in member states except UK and Luxembourg. The longest working hours are those of British men.

Source: Eurostat. Sweden and Austria were not covered by the surveys during the reference years.

● Average weekly working hours for full-time employees: 40.5 hrs.

● Working hours per week have declined over the past decade.

● There is a downward trend in annual working hours in member states except UK and Luxembourg. The longest working hours are those of British men.

Source: Eurostat. Sweden and Austria were not covered by the surveys during the reference years.

● Average weekly working hours for full-time employees: 40.5 hrs.

● Working hours per week have declined over the past decade.

● There is a downward trend in annual working hours in member states except UK and Luxembourg. The longest working hours are those of British men.

Source: Eurostat. Sweden and Austria were not covered by the surveys during the reference years.

● Average weekly working hours for full-time employees: 40.5 hrs.

● Working hours per week have declined over the past decade.

● There is a downward trend in annual working hours in member states except UK and Luxembourg. The longest working hours are those of British men.

Source: Eurostat. Sweden and Austria were not covered by the surveys during the reference years.

● Average weekly working hours for full-time employees: 40.5 hrs.

● Working hours per week have declined over the past decade.

● There is a downward trend in annual working hours in member states except UK and Luxembourg. The longest working hours are those of British men.

Source: Eurostat. Sweden and Austria were not covered by the surveys during the reference years.

● Average weekly working hours for full-time employees: 40.5 hrs.

● Working hours per week have declined over the past decade.

● There is a downward trend in annual working hours in member states except UK and Luxembourg. The longest working hours are those of British men.

Source: Eurostat. Sweden and Austria were not covered by the surveys during the reference years.

● Average weekly working hours for full-time employees: 40.5 hrs.

● Working hours per week have declined over the past decade.

● There is a downward trend in annual working hours in member states except UK and Luxembourg. The longest working hours are those of British men.

Source: Eurostat. Sweden and Austria were not covered by the surveys during the reference years.

● Average weekly working hours for full-time employees: 40.5 hrs.

● Working hours per week have declined over the past decade.

● There is a downward trend in annual working hours in member states except UK and Luxembourg. The longest working hours are those of British men.

Source: Eurostat. Sweden and Austria were not covered by the surveys during the reference years.

● Average weekly working hours for full-time employees: 40.5 hrs.

● Working hours per week have declined over the past decade.

● There is a downward trend in annual working hours in member states except UK and Luxembourg. The longest working hours are those of British men.

Source: Eurostat. Sweden and Austria were not covered by the surveys during the reference years.

● Average weekly working hours for full-time employees: 40.5 hrs.

● Working hours per week have declined over the past decade.

● There is a downward trend in annual working hours in member states except UK and Luxembourg. The longest working hours are those of British men.

Source: Eurostat. Sweden and Austria were not covered by the surveys during the reference years.

● Average weekly working hours for full-time employees: 40.5 hrs.

● Working hours per week have declined over the past decade.

● There is a downward trend in annual working hours in member states except UK and Luxembourg. The longest working hours are those of British men.

Source:

'She would not take no for answer'

Housewife ran at me like a prop forward, says accused lawyer

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE slightly built wife of a wealthy businessman was accused yesterday of acting like a "rugby prop forward" during a struggle with her husband's solicitor.

Allen Chubb, who is 6ft 3in, said he had used minimum force when Laura Harold charged into his office, and had pinned the 5ft 2in housewife to the floor only to restrain her until police arrived.

Mr Chubb, 52, a former special police constable, has pleaded not guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm and false imprisonment in a private prosecution brought by Mrs Harold.

A jury at Inner London Crown Court has been told that Mrs Harold, 32, a housewife with two children, had called at the solicitors on her husband's behalf to demand the deeds to their £1 million house.

But Mr Chubb, the senior partner of Child and Child in Belgravia, refused to hand them over because of a disputed £3,500 bill he alleged the Harolds had failed to pay.

On the second day of his trial yesterday, Mr Chubb said he had been calm and collected when he first ejected Mrs Harold from the building. He said in an interview with police: "After a short interlude, Mrs Harold got up and charged back into the premises with her head down. She didn't say anything. She charged along the hall like a rugby prop forward."

"I caught her with both arms and she either fell or I pushed her to the floor on her back. I was worried she might get hurt and my objective was not to hurt her. I therefore pinned her to the floor." Mrs Harold, who weighs 7½ stone



Harold: said to suffer flashbacks of incident

bruising on her lower legs but that is more the result of her own actions, not of my own, occasioned by her resisting her lawful removal from the premises."

Mr Chubb told police that she started shouting when he refused to hand over the deeds of the unmortgaged property which her husband Michael wanted to hand over to his bankers in connection with a property deal at the back of the couple's home in Belgravia. "She would not take no for an answer," and refused to go, obliging him to use "no more than reasonable force" to remove her.

He said that his treatment of her had been gentle and that she bounced along the floor on her bottom as he pulled her, and at one stage tried to anchor herself by hooking her legs around the leg of a desk in the reception area.

Mr Chubb denied throwing her out of the building and said that he tumbled as he pulled her through the front door and fell onto her. "I don't see how I could have used less force than I did. I thought I behaved reasonably. I believe that what I did was lawful and proper."

The solicitor said he regarded Michael Harold, a property developer and industrialist, as a bully. On the day of the alleged assault Mr Harold paid an early-morning visit to Child and Child's premises, demanding the return of his wife and further allegations about his relationship with the Princess of Wales.

Mr Chubb, of Barnes, south London, said the businessman made clear that he was prepared to search the offices for the papers himself. "This made me very angry," the solicitor said. He told the court Mr Harold had left by the time they arrived.

The case continues today.

The case continues today.

Accident victim woke up in boot

By ROBIN YOUNG

A MOTORIST who mistakenly thought he had killed a barmaid in an accident bundled her into his boot and drove away.

Donna Hayes, 33, recovered consciousness and banged on the roof of the boot until the driver, Philip Hackwell, 28, stopped almost two miles down the road. Yesterday Mr Hackwell, of Reydon, Suffolk, appeared at Ipswich Crown Court and denied attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Jane Davies, for the prosecution, said that when Mr Hackwell, a turkey factory worker, opened the boot and helped Mrs Hayes out he told her: "I am sorry. I thought I had killed you so I put you in the boot."

He then put Mrs Hayes in the front seat and drove her to a friend's house where a doctor and ambulance were called. Mrs Hayes, a mother of three, spent the night in hospital and was treated for a broken shoulder, concussion

and bruises to her leg. Miss Davies said, but had since been unable to return to work and still suffered from vertigo and nightmares because of her experience.

Mrs Hayes told police that she had been walking to work at the Cherry Tree pub in Stoven, Suffolk, on October 28 last. The last thing she remembered was seeing a red Vauxhall Chevette parked in a field about 50 yards from the road.

She could remember nothing more until she recovered consciousness and realised that she was in the boot. She said she knocked hard until the car stopped. "The next thing I was helped out of the boot by a man."

Miss Davies said that Mr Hackwell had initially been charged with false imprisonment and had given police a full account of what happened. He had also told police he had been suffering from stress and had been sleeping in his car for the previous two nights.

The case continues today.

Robbers manacle soccer chairman

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE chairman of Leeds United Football Club was overpowered and handcuffed by masked robbers during a £200,000 raid at his home.

Leslie Silver, 71, the millionaire semi-retired owner of a Leeds paint manufacturing company, was manacled to a door while three men forced his wife Sheila to open the safe and hand over cash and jewellery valued at more than £200,000.

Last night Mr Silver said he and his wife had been watching television on Monday. Shortly after 8.30pm the raiders, all wearing black balaclavas, smashed their way through a downstairs window of the house at Scarcroft, West Yorkshire.

They warned the couple not to look at them and forced them to lie face down on the carpet before throwing a blanket over them. Mr Silver said: "I was pushed to the floor and we were both handcuffed. They took my wife to the safe

and tied me to the snooker room door. When they had gone I managed to reach out for a phone and call 999."

They were in the house for about 20 minutes but it seemed like 20 years. It was a terrifying experience. Obviously I was concerned about my wife. There was no indication of any violence, but it was fairly brutal. The worst part was our fears for each other when we were separated. There was no way we could sleep last night."

The raiders stole every item of Mrs Silver's jewellery before leaving the couple handcuffed to the door. They managed to free themselves before police arrived.

The raiders were slim and white. One was 5ft 11in, in his mid-twenties and wore white training shoes with yellow and brown markings. A second man was 5ft 8in.

Police said the robbers must have had a vehicle. They appealed for information from anyone who saw one near the house that night.

Cleared barrister returns to his pigs

By TIM JONES
AND RUSSELL JENKINS

A PIG-breeding barrister was acquitted yesterday of refusing to provide a breathalyser specimen after magistrates were told he had been the victim of a police vendetta.

Iain Whitney, 46, intends to bring private prosecutions against members of the Warwickshire force who arrested him. He claimed he had become a police target after falling out with a sergeant over shared land on which he kept his pigs.

Since the incident last August, Mr Whitney has sent 30 black and white saddlebacks to market, including Bunkers Hill Dictator The First, which won him his first prize at the Royal Show. Outside Rugby Magistrates' Court he said: "I could no longer work as a police prosecutor so I needed the money. Sadly, Bunkers Hill has now been turned into sausages."

Elizabeth Barrett, Mr Whitney's counsel, told the court



Mr Whitney's herd of saddlebacks went to market

he had been the victim of an orchestrated campaign by police to catch him. She said it was based on a long-running grudge conducted by Sergeant George Steepney after the two fell out over the shared piece of land.

Miss Barrett said Sergeant Steepney had compiled an intelligence report alleging untruthfully that Mr Whit-

ney was a notorious drink driver with an alcohol abuse problem.

"One of Her Majesty's officers has used his position of power, given to him to be exercised lawfully and fairly towards other citizens in order to pursue his own private vendetta. This is nothing to do with reasonable suspicion and everything to



Julia Carling, named satellite television personality of the year yesterday amid further royal allegations

Julia Carling rules out reconciliation

By EMMA WILKINS

JULIA CARLING, the estranged wife of the England rugby captain, said yesterday there was no chance of a reconciliation with her husband amid further allegations about his relationship with the Princess of Wales.

Mr Carling, 31, who was named satellite television personality of the year at an award ceremony in London, shared the billing with the Princess's *Panorama* interview, which won a prize for the year's best factual programme.

Mrs Carling, who conducts celebrity interviews on VH1, a music channel owned by MTV, collected her award

from the Television and Radio Industries Club at the Grosvenor House hotel, Park Lane.

According to a newspaper, Mr Carling confessed to an intimate relationship with the Princess during an argument with his wife last year. The newspaper claimed the story came from an unnamed friend of Mrs Carling.

When she learnt of reports of her husband's relationship, Mrs Carling issued a late-night statement through her solicitors Forsythe Saunders Kerman. It said that Mrs Carling was very distressed by the disclosure and regretted its appearance in a newspaper.

Mrs Carling, who conducts celebrity interviews on VH1, a music channel owned by MTV, collected her award

from the Television and Radio Industries Club at the Grosvenor House hotel, Park Lane.

According to a newspaper, Mr Carling confessed to an intimate relationship with the Princess during an argument with his wife last year.

The newspaper claimed the story came from an unnamed friend of Mrs Carling.

When she learnt of reports of her husband's relationship, Mrs Carling issued a late-night statement through her solicitors Forsythe Saunders Kerman. It said that Mrs Carling was very distressed by the disclosure and regretted its appearance in a newspaper.

Mrs Carling said yesterday that the firm had nothing to say to the story.

Party girl killed by two who drove van

By ANDREW PIERCE

A JUDGE yesterday condemned under-age drinking at a party at which a 16-year-old girl was run down and killed. Emily Sims suffered horrific injuries as the vehicle dragged her 30 metres while other youngsters watched.

The birthday party at Bromley Football Club, southeast London, had been attended by 300 people as young as 15 from three schools. Drink flowed freely and a series of disputes broke out, resulting in an assault and the accident in the car park.

The Old Bailey was told that if David Moon, 20, of Southborough, Kent, and a schoolboy aged 16, who cannot be named, had heeded the cries of onlookers, Emily might have survived. Many who saw the incident in the February last year were so traumatised that the local authority had to arrange counselling in schools.

Moon and the 16-year-old were found guilty of violent disorder and causing death by dangerous driving. Judge Forrester remanded them until April 19 for pre-sentence reports. Another 16-year-old was found guilty of wounding Moon with intent and of violent disorder.

The judge said he wanted details of the case to be drawn to the attention of the authorities responsible for granting liquor licences. "Under-age drinking was taking place — and obviously so. Appropriate steps should be taken to inform those responsible."

The court was told that the van ploughed into Emily and her friend Melanie Cook, 16, in the car park. A brawl had broken out a few yards away and Moon was hit over the head with a dumbbell.

Moon jumped into the van with the 16-year-old; Moon operated the clutch and the teenager steered. The van veered into the two girls, who were waiting for a lift. Emily and Melanie were trapped under the wheels and Melanie thrown clear.

Witnesses screamed at the van to stop. Orlando Pownall, for the prosecution, said: "It is inconceivable that they failed to hear those cries. They chose to ignore them. They later claimed they did not see the girls. They should have done."

BE THE BEST

Whether you join or sleep if you haven't got one, send this coupon to: The Territorial Army, Freepost 6322, Royal Mail 3W or phone 0345 300 0207. The minimum yearly commitment is 6 weekends, 2 weeks camp and a few weekday evenings, but many do more. You can leave at any time, but never again.

The TA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Eight and a half tonnes of Spartan. Not the easiest thing to conceal.

Fit it with seven men and a bucket load of adrenalin and you've got a serious liability on your hands.

Could you lose it in the undergrowth before you lose a life?

That's exactly the kind of test you'll face as an Officer in the Territorial Army.

From barristers to bank clerks.

But not just anyone.

Men and women with enough drive, ambition and charisma to lead. What's in it for Officers? Pay for Officers plus a yearly tax-free bonus of up to £500.

It's down to you. Are you Officer material or not?

We'll here's your first test. Should you cut or run?

ACCOUNTANTS, TRY HIDING THIS

Macintosh PowerBook.

It's expansive
not
expensive.



Buy now and
get a free copy of
Claris Organizer,
worth £50.

(Just call for a free voucher)

There are two extraordinary
things about a PowerBook™ 190 – the
performance and the price.

It's an easy-to-use system, with a
powerful 66/33MHz processor.

It has a full-size keyboard and
palm-rest, improved Apple trackpad
and outputs for stereo sound.

It's upgradeable to PowerPC™,
colour and infrared technology, so
it can change as and when your
needs do.

It comes with ClarisWorks® pro-
ductivity software pre-installed so you
can use it right out of the box.

Just switch it on and you're ready
to go. Word processing, spreadsheet,
database and drawing capabilities are
all included.

And if you buy a PowerBook 190
before the end of April, you can claim
a free copy of the top-rated diary and
contact management software, Claris
Organizer, worth £50.

To get your free Claris Organizer
voucher and details of your nearest
stockist, call the Apple Information
Centre today, free on 0800 515 082.

At just £1,170 (£995 ex VAT), what
more incentive could you need?

Apple

Macintosh PowerBook

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 1. Only original vouchers will be accepted. 2. Vouchers must be fully completed and sent with a copy of the invoice or all receipt detailing the purchase of a qualifying PowerBook. 3. One copy of Claris Organizer will be supplied per qualifying PowerBook. 4. This offer is open only to end-user customers not to Apple dealers. 5. This offer applies to all 190 series PowerBook models purchased in store between 12/2/95 and 30/4/96.
6. Vouchers must be received at the address specified on the voucher no later than 31/5/96. 7. A copy of Claris Organizer software will normally be delivered within 28 days of receipt of the completed voucher. 8. Apple reserves the right to substitute alternative software of an equivalent value. 9. PowerBook, Apple Computer, Inc. Ltd, 142 Queen's Road, London NW1 3UB, UK. 10. PowerBook 190, 190c, 190c/2, 190c/3, 190c/4, 190c/5, 190c/6, 190c/7, 190c/8, 190c/9, 190c/10, 190c/11, 190c/12, 190c/13, 190c/14, 190c/15, 190c/16, 190c/17, 190c/18, 190c/19, 190c/20, 190c/21, 190c/22, 190c/23, 190c/24, 190c/25, 190c/26, 190c/27, 190c/28, 190c/29, 190c/30, 190c/31, 190c/32, 190c/33, 190c/34, 190c/35, 190c/36, 190c/37, 190c/38, 190c/39, 190c/40, 190c/41, 190c/42, 190c/43, 190c/44, 190c/45, 190c/46, 190c/47, 190c/48, 190c/49, 190c/50, 190c/51, 190c/52, 190c/53, 190c/54, 190c/55, 190c/56, 190c/57, 190c/58, 190c/59, 190c/60, 190c/61, 190c/62, 190c/63, 190c/64, 190c/65, 190c/66, 190c/67, 190c/68, 190c/69, 190c/70, 190c/71, 190c/72, 190c/73, 190c/74, 190c/75, 190c/76, 190c/77, 190c/78, 190c/79, 190c/80, 190c/81, 190c/82, 190c/83, 190c/84, 190c/85, 190c/86, 190c/87, 190c/88, 190c/89, 190c/90, 190c/91, 190c/92, 190c/93, 190c/94, 190c/95, 190c/96, 190c/97, 190c/98, 190c/99, 190c/100, 190c/101, 190c/102, 190c/103, 190c/104, 190c/105, 190c/106, 190c/107, 190c/108, 190c/109, 190c/110, 190c/111, 190c/112, 190c/113, 190c/114, 190c/115, 190c/116, 190c/117, 190c/118, 190c/119, 190c/120, 190c/121, 190c/122, 190c/123, 190c/124, 190c/125, 190c/126, 190c/127, 190c/128, 190c/129, 190c/130, 190c/131, 190c/132, 190c/133, 190c/134, 190c/135, 190c/136, 190c/137, 190c/138, 190c/139, 190c/140, 190c/141, 190c/142, 190c/143, 190c/144, 190c/145, 190c/146, 190c/147, 190c/148, 190c/149, 190c/150, 190c/151, 190c/152, 190c/153, 190c/154, 190c/155, 190c/156, 190c/157, 190c/158, 190c/159, 190c/160, 190c/161, 190c/162, 190c/163, 190c/164, 190c/165, 190c/166, 190c/167, 190c/168, 190c/169, 190c/170, 190c/171, 190c/172, 190c/173, 190c/174, 190c/175, 190c/176, 190c/177, 190c/178, 190c/179, 190c/180, 190c/181, 190c/182, 190c/183, 190c/184, 190c/185, 190c/186, 190c/187, 190c/188, 190c/189, 190c/190, 190c/191, 190c/192, 190c/193, 190c/194, 190c/195, 190c/196, 190c/197, 190c/198, 190c/199, 190c/200, 190c/201, 190c/202, 190c/203, 190c/204, 190c/205, 190c/206, 190c/207, 190c/208, 190c/209, 190c/210, 190c/211, 190c/212, 190c/213, 190c/214, 190c/215, 190c/216, 190c/217, 190c/218, 190c/219, 190c/220, 190c/221, 190c/222, 190c/223, 190c/224, 190c/225, 190c/226, 190c/227, 190c/228, 190c/229, 190c/230, 190c/231, 190c/232, 190c/233, 190c/234, 190c/235, 190c/236, 190c/237, 190c/238, 190c/239, 190c/240, 190c/241, 190c/242, 190c/243, 190c/244, 190c/245, 190c/246, 190c/247, 190c/248, 190c/249, 190c/250, 190c/251, 190c/252, 190c/253, 190c/254, 190c/255, 190c/256, 190c/257, 190c/258, 190c/259, 190c/260, 190c/261, 190c/262, 190c/263, 190c/264, 190c/265, 190c/266, 190c/267, 190c/268, 190c/269, 190c/270, 190c/271, 190c/272, 190c/273, 190c/274, 190c/275, 190c/276, 190c/277, 190c/278, 190c/279, 190c/280, 190c/281, 190c/282, 190c/283, 190c/284, 190c/285, 190c/286, 190c/287, 190c/288, 190c/289, 190c/290, 190c/291, 190c/292, 190c/293, 190c/294, 190c/295, 190c/296, 190c/297, 190c/298, 190c/299, 190c/300, 190c/301, 190c/302, 190c/303, 190c/304, 190c/305, 190c/306, 190c/307, 190c/308, 190c/309, 190c/310, 190c/311, 190c/312, 190c/313, 190c/314, 190c/315, 190c/316, 190c/317, 190c/318, 190c/319, 190c/320, 190c/321, 190c/322, 190c/323, 190c/324, 190c/325, 190c/326, 190c/327, 190c/328, 190c/329, 190c/330, 190c/331, 190c/332, 190c/333, 190c/334, 190c/335, 190c/336, 190c/337, 190c/338, 190c/339, 190c/340, 190c/341, 190c/342, 190c/343, 190c/344, 190c/345, 190c/346, 190c/347, 190c/348, 190c/349, 190c/350, 190c/351, 190c/352, 190c/353, 190c/354, 190c/355, 190c/356, 190c/357, 190c/358, 190c/359, 190c/360, 190c/361, 190c/362, 190c/363, 190c/364, 190c/365, 190c/366, 190c/367, 190c/368, 190c/369, 190c/370, 190c/371, 190c/372, 190c/373, 190c/374, 190c/375, 190c/376, 190c/377, 190c/378, 190c/379, 190c/380, 190c/381, 190c/382, 190c/383, 190c/384, 190c/385, 190c/386, 190c/387, 190c/388, 190c/389, 190c/390, 190c/391, 190c/392, 190c/393, 190c/394, 190c/395, 190c/396, 190c/397, 190c/398, 190c/399, 190c/400, 190c/401, 190c/402, 190c/403, 190c/404, 190c/405, 190c/406, 190c/407, 190c/408, 190c/409, 190c/410, 190c/411, 190c/412, 190c/413, 190c/414, 190c/415, 190c/416, 190c/417, 190c/418, 190c/419, 190c/420, 190c/421, 190c/422, 190c/423, 190c/424, 190c/425, 190c/426, 190c/427, 190c/428, 190c/429, 190c/430, 190c/431, 190c/432, 190c/433, 190c/434, 190c/435, 190c/436, 190c/437, 190c/438, 190c/439, 190c/440, 190c/441, 190c/442, 190c/443, 190c/444, 190c/445, 190c/446, 190c/447, 190c/448, 190c/449, 190c/450, 190c/451, 190c/452, 190c/453, 190c/454, 190c/455, 190c/456, 190c/457, 190c/458, 190c/459, 190c/460, 190c/461, 190c/462, 190c/463, 190c/464, 190c/465, 190c/466, 190c/467, 190c/468, 190c/469, 190c/470, 190c/471, 190c/472, 190c/473, 190c/474, 190c/475, 190c/476, 190c/477, 190c/478, 190c/479, 190c/480, 190c/481, 190c/482, 190c/483, 190c/484, 190c/485, 190c/486, 190c/487, 190c/488, 190c/489, 190c/490, 190c/491, 190c/492, 190c/493, 190c/494, 190c/495, 190c/496, 190c/497, 190c/498, 190c/499, 190c/500, 190c/501, 190c/502, 190c/503, 190c/504, 190c/505, 190c/506, 190c/507, 190c/508, 190c/509, 190c/510, 190c/511, 190c/512, 190c/513, 190c/514, 190c/515, 190c/516, 190c/517, 190c/518, 190c/519, 190c/520, 190c/521, 190c/522, 190c/523, 190c/524, 190c/525, 190c/526, 190c/527, 190c/528, 190c/529, 190c/530, 190c/531, 190c/532, 190c/533, 190c/534, 190c/535, 190c/536, 190c/537, 190c/538, 190c/539, 190c/540, 190c/541, 190c/542, 190c/543, 190c/544, 190c/545, 190c/546, 190c/547, 190c/548, 190c/549, 190c/550, 190c/551, 190c/552, 190c/553, 190c/554, 190c/555, 190c/556, 190c/557, 190c/558, 190c/559, 190c/560, 190c/561, 190c/562, 190c/563, 190c/564, 190c/565, 190c/566, 190c/567, 190c/568, 190c/569, 190c/570, 190c/571, 190c/572, 190c/573, 190c/574, 190c/575, 190c/576, 190c/577, 190c/578, 190c/579, 190c/580, 190c/581, 190c/582, 190c/583, 190c/584, 190c/585, 190c/586, 190c/587, 190c/588, 190c/589, 190c/590, 190c/591, 190c/592, 190c/593, 190c/594, 190c/595, 190c/596, 190c/597, 190c/598, 190c/599, 190c/600, 190c/601, 190c/602, 190c/603, 190c/604, 190c/605, 190c/606, 190c/607, 190c/608, 190c/609, 190c/610, 190c/611, 190c/612, 190c/613, 190c/614, 190c/615, 190c/616, 190c/617, 190c/618, 190c/619, 190c/620, 190c/621, 190c/622, 190c/623, 190c/624, 190c/625, 190c/626, 190c/627, 190c/628, 190c/629, 190c/630, 190c/631, 190c/632, 190c/633, 190c/634, 190c/635, 190c/636, 190c/637, 190c/638, 190c/639, 190c/640, 190c/641, 190c/642, 190c/643, 190c/644, 190c/645, 190c/646, 190c/647, 190c/648, 190c/649, 190c/650, 190c/651, 190c/652, 190c/653, 190c/654, 190c/655, 190c/656, 190c/657, 190c/658, 190c/659, 190c/660, 190c/661, 190c/662, 190c/663, 190c/664, 190c/665, 1

Bus queue defender jailed for head butt

AN ACCOUNTANT who head butted a man he thought was trying to push into a bus queue was jailed for six weeks yesterday. Keith Finucane, 36, lost his cool while waiting for a bus during a Tube strike on a hot afternoon.

His victim, Massimo Balestra, was attacked after he paused near the crowded bus stop in the City of London to chat to a friend. Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court was told. Finucane assumed that Mr Balestra intended to push into the queue and began shouting and swearing at him.

Mr Balestra pushed him away but Finucane butted his lip. Finucane had denied assault but was convicted after a three-day trial in January and returned for sentencing yesterday.

Karen Blore, in mitigation, blamed the incident on a "momentary loss of control" by a man who "felt he was protecting the interest of others waiting in the bus queue". But Judge Lincoln Crawford said: "If you are protecting people at a bus stop, you don't object to someone jumping a queue by head butting that person in the mouth."

Miss Blore said that Finucane, of Bethnal Green, east London, was an industrious man of good character, whose "future employment" would be in question if he were jailed. James Dawson, head of personnel at Finucane's employer, the solicitors Clifford Chance, told the judge that Finucane was "well-respected within the firm" and explained that he was the main contact in London for two of the firm's international offices.

Jailing Finucane, Judge Crawford said: "This man didn't provoke you and you didn't simply push him away, you head butted him in the mouth. By any comparison, this is a case of the nastiest assault you can mete out to anyone. Your behaviour was appalling on that day." Finucane was ordered to pay £750 costs and £750 compensation to Mr Balestra.



Alexandra Nechita in London: her artistic embrace includes Picasso-like Cubism, as in *The Comedy Lover*, below, but some critics seek to put her talents into perspective

Brush with fame draws sceptics

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE British art world is viewing with scepticism a ten-year-old girl hailed as "the new Picasso" for semi-abstract paintings selling for up to £40,000 in America.

As Alexandra Nechita, the daughter of a Romanian refugee, was presenting her *Dove and the Angel of Peace* to Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, and preparing to make similar gifts to other nations, there was concern yesterday that hype had become a fine art in its own right. Gillian Wolfe, head of education at Dulwich Picture Gallery, said of the girl who has signed a £400,000 deal with a Los Angeles

publisher and sold 250 of her Cubist-inspired paintings: "What sort of ideas will she have of her own worth? She is going to see herself in terms of money."

Brian Sewell, the art critic, said that he did not believe in ten-year-old geniuses: "Most ten-year-olds can copy. If you dump them in front of a Picasso, they will make a Picasso, of sorts. If you put them in front of something difficult like a Leonardo, they will find themselves stymied."

He questioned why Alexandra's promoters had not invited his views: "That suggests that those putting on the hype realise there's not much there. If there was serious evidence of genius, they would surely have called in the dozen art critics who

really matter. This sounds like a journalist's delight, as opposed to a critic's delight."

She was in London yesterday, accompanied by her parents and a publisher, Ben Valenty, who owns a chain of galleries selling 19th and 20th-century art in Los Angeles, where Alexandra lives. He first saw her work in a children's exhibition at a local library. "I was bewildered." Responding to criticism that she was being pushed at a tender age, he said: "Where is it written that you have to be old and grey and half dead before you can have a reasonable career? It used to be that way." Mr Valenty said that William Emboden, who worked for many years at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art,

was among scholars and critics who had praised her work: "He said that 'genius is not too big a word for her'."

One observer said: "The success of contemporary art is as dependent on marketing as on the talent... she is being marketed by virtue of the fact that she is ten, Romanian and an émigré. People are buying into her story."

James Roundell, a dealer in Impressionist and 20th-century art, compared Alexandra to young Eastern bloc gymnasts who were pushed to the limit: "I wonder whether it is entirely natural." He said that it was too early to assess whether her talent would transform into genius. An artist has to have lived: "At ten, you haven't lived."



Prodigies blessed by genius are rare outside realm of music

By JOE JOSEPH

STARTLING musicians often bloom early, like crocuses — and many wilt just as swiftly — but painters, sculptors and writers take longer to flower.

Alexandra Nechita would be in skimpy company if Madame Tussaud's decided to open a gallery of child geniuses in the visual arts.

Details of artists' lives in the Renaissance are only patchily documented, but it is thought Michelangelo did not start sculpting until he was 15. Picasso was hailed

as something special by the time he was a teenager and there is a story that when his father (also a painter) saw his son's pre-pubescent doodles, he threw away his own brushes and palette, saying it was pointless he painted again.

John Golding, former senior tutor at the Royal College of Art, says there are few other examples: "Degas was a natural draughtsman from the moment he began, but Cézanne? Matisse? Neither were regarded as child prodigies."

Simon Wilson, a curator at the Tate Gallery in London, says: "Mil-

lais, the pre-Raphaelite, was tremendously hyped as a child genius. At the age of nine he won the silver medal from the Royal Society of Arts for a drawing of the Battle of Bannockburn. He painted *Isabella*, after Keats's poem, when he was 18, and that really is one of the great British paintings of all time."

So while Mozart, Mendelssohn and Schubert all began composing before the age of 12, and while Chopin, Yehudi Menuhin and Jascha Heifetz had given public concerts by the time they were 11, and while Lorin Maazel was con-

ducting orchestras before he was out of short trousers, prodigies in painting or writing are much rarer.

Writers and artists tend to improve with age. Oscar Wilde may have had nothing to declare but his genius, but he was way past 10 when he made that boast to a New York customs officer. Artists are thought to be hitting their stride once they pass 50.

"Painters and sculptors just evolve more slowly than other kinds of artists," says Mr Wilson. "The greatest art does reflect a mature view of life and view of the world."



Millais: rare child genius

Our performance stacks up well.

Automotive - Our expertise in motor racing is legendary. During 1995, Cosworth developed both a new V10 engine for Formula One and a new V8 engine for the Indy Car Series, for the 1996 season.

Propulsion Technology - Our stabilisers ensure a more reliable delivery of all the containers on board.

The Vickers group is on the right track. Another year of growth and greatly accelerated investment at Vickers P.L.C. has stacked up some impressive figures. Over £1 billion turnover for the first time in the Company's history, for example.

And a £78.4 million operating profit* in 1995, up 49% on 1994.

Which is why the businesses in the group are continuing to approach the future with confidence.

Cosworth, part of the Automotive grouping, is well advanced in a programme of broadening its product base.

Not merely content with supplying a new V10 engine for top Formula One teams and a new V8 engine for U.S. Indy Car teams, another area into

which Cosworth has diversified is extremely precise and intricate aluminium castings, placing Cosworth in the vanguard of the industry's rapidly-increasing move away from cast iron engine blocks and cylinder heads.

Cosworth has developed and patented unique castings technology and has accelerated investment for medium and longer term growth by building a £25 million factory to supply well known marques with high precision aluminium alloy castings.

In our Propulsion Technology division, Brown Brothers is another company with a great track record as one of the leading manufacturers of motion control equipment for ships and other floating structures.

It produces the world's largest folding fin stabilisers, normally associated with cruise ships. But they're also increasingly being installed in container shipping - the 'Regina Maersk', is the first of 12 larger vessels to be so equipped.

This VM series of retractable fin stabilisers represents the very latest in designs that span over

50 years of continuous development.

Cosworth and Brown Brothers are typical of the dynamic companies driving Vickers P.L.C. forward.

We've made a commitment to work towards consistent improvement for shareholders.

We believe our performance will continue to stack up well.



AUTOMOTIVE • DEFENCE SYSTEMS • PROPULSION TECHNOLOGY • MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Vickers P.L.C., Millbank Tower, London SW1P 4RA. Tel: +44 (0)171-828 7777 Fax: +44 (0)171-828 6585.

*The contents of this statement have been approved for the purposes of section 37 of the Financial Services Act 1996 by KPMG which is authorised by the Board of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to carry on accountancy business.

THE AVERAGE PERSON DOESN'T NOTICE CAR ADS.



But the average person seldom ignores the motoring press.

Allow us to draw your attention to a few typical quotes from some astute observers:

"The 406 has the answer for questions that would have many Mercedes and BMWs scratching their heads." AUTOCAR.

"Brilliant handling and ride plus a superb safety package." BUSINESS CAR.

"Peugeot has redefined the boundaries...the finest family car that money can buy." WHAT CAR?

And "If you love driving you will love the Peugeot 406." CAR.

Above average notices, don't you think?

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS AN AVERAGE PERSON.

406
PEUGEOT
THE DRIVE OF YOUR LIFE

THE NEW PEUGEOT 406 FROM £12,595. FOR YOUR FREE INFORMATION PACK CALL 0345 000 406.

Government says no to harmonisation for its own sake and integration driven by ideology

Britain will be guided by the national interest

By PHILIP WEBSTER POLITICAL EDITOR

THE bedrock of the European Union is the independent democratic nation state, John Major states in a foreword to the White Paper, *A Partnership of Nations*, published yesterday.

Underlining his determination to keep Britain at the heart of the debate about Europe's future, the Prime Minister declares: "We shall pursue our national interests, as our partners pursue theirs, yet with a strong sense of shared purpose and common enterprise." He adds: "It is in the interest of the European Union that it should develop with the grain of national cultures and traditions, especially as it enlarges to the east and south. That is the United Kingdom's interest too."

The document states that the UK's role as a leading member of the European Union is "vital to our national interest". Despite its substantial achievement, the EU is experiencing a period of uncertainty and self-doubt. "The Maastricht process polarised opinion in several member states and exposed a level of public unease and alienation which must concern all those, like the Government, who want the EU to fulfil its potential."

Rejecting the concept of an ever closer political union, developing gradually to a United States of Europe, the paper says that national parliaments "must remain the central focus of democratic legitimacy".

It says: "We shall not accept harmonisation for its own sake, or further European integration which is driven by ideology rather than the prospect of practical benefit." Above all we shall be guided by a cool assessment of the British interest. Common European decision-making, as opposed to co-operation, can only be justified where it brings benefits for British security, prosperity and quality of life which are so significant that they justify some loss of unfettered national control over decision-making in the area concerned."

The EU needs to accept a degree of flexibility without falling into the trap of a two-tier Europe with a hard core either of countries or of policies. "There may be areas in which it is perfectly healthy for some member states to integrate more closely or more quickly than others. It is important, however, that such policies only become

Union policies, and draw on the Community's institutions, including the budget, where this is agreed by all."

The following is the Government's position on the key areas identified as issues for the inter-governmental conference:

Legislative process: The Government will be bringing forward proposals to entrench subsidiarity further into the Treaty of Rome and a more systematic consultation of business, parliaments and other interested parties about future legislation. It will continue efforts to reduce the regulatory burdens of European law. It is considering ideas for limiting the scope of EU action in some areas, in particular to prevent the health and safety article being used for social policy by the back door, and for improving the monitoring and enforcement of European legislation.

Qualified majority voting: The

Decisions to send servicemen to risk their lives are for national governments

Government believes that there is a strong case on grounds of democratic legitimacy for increasing the relative influence of the more populous states, such as the UK, which yields 10 votes out of 87. At present the system gives one vote for every 200,000 Luxembourgers but only one for every 8 million Germans and one for every 6 million Britons.

But it opposes a further extension of qualified majority voting. "At a time when there is serious public concern about the centralisation of decision-making the case has not been made for making it easier to override the objections of member states in matters of particular sensitivity. We do not accept the argument that unanimity in those areas to which it currently applies would be incompatible with effective decision-making, even in an enlarged Union."

Commissioners: The Government understands the importance that member states attach to hav-

ing their own commissioner. "With further enlargements, however, it may not be appropriate to retain the present system."

The European Parliament: Rolling out new powers for the Parliament, the Government says it is most likely to win public support and develop its role by the responsible exercise of the powers it already has, particularly by monitoring and restraining EU spending and fighting fraud and mismanagement. It does not accept "in a Union of nation states, that the European Parliament can displace the primary role of national parliaments."

European Court of Justice: The Government says it is committed to a strong independent court without which it would be impossible to ensure the application of EU law and prevent abuse of power. But its functioning can be improved. Some judgments have imposed disproportionate costs on governments or business, even where they have made every effort to meet their obligations. The Government's proposals include:

- Strengthening the ability of the court to limit retrospective application of its judgments
- Introducing the principle that a country should only be liable for damages in "cases of serious and manifest breach of its obligations"
- Applying a national time limit to all cases based on EU law
- Bringing in streamlined procedures for the rapid amendment of EU legislation which has been interpreted in a way never intended by ministers
- An accelerated process for time-sensitive cases

Common foreign and security policy: While it is in Britain's interest that members of the EU should speak and act together as much as possible on the world stage, "we must be clear that CFSP can never become an exclusive policy which would replace national foreign policy. Where specific British interests are at stake we shall insist upon retaining our freedom of action. We shall not therefore accept a commitment to be constrained by collective decisions which we do not support."

The Government says it will be pressing for a more active and effective CFSP while maintaining its inter-governmental character. The IGC will look at further options to improve the planning

and analysis of the policy as well as proposals to increase coherence.

In particular we are ready to look at the idea of appointing a single figure to represent the foreign policy of the Union to the outside world for CFSP. The terms of reference for this office would need to be carefully drafted to make clear that such a figure was fully answerable to the Council of Ministers, representing the collective views of member states and not deciding them.

The Government does not accept that the unanimity provisions for the policy are a constraint on its development, nor that it would be strengthened by the introduction of voting models which overrode the concerns of a particular member state. "If there is no collective will within the European Union to act, it is unwise to try to force action through artificial voting procedures." CFSP will only carry weight internationally if it represents a genuinely common policy, not a majority one.

Defence: The Government is keen to develop European defence co-operation. But questions of defence go to the heart of national sovereignty.

"Decisions to send service men and women to risk their lives are for national governments, accountable to national parliaments. They are not matters for decision in the European Union. Member states must be free to act in defence of their national interests. Our proposals are rooted in that conviction. They are also based on our belief in the overriding importance of the Atlantic Alliance as the bedrock of our future security ... Sustaining a strong US commitment to European security is an essential part of this."

But in the case of smaller peacekeeping or humanitarian operations it will not always be reasonable to expect the US to participate. European defence co-operation must therefore be organised in such a way that, while bearing their full share of the burden within Nato and without building new structures that duplicate those already in the Alliance, European countries are also able to act on their own when necessary.

The Western European Union provides the best framework for the further development of this co-operation. The EU does not have



Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, making his statement to the Commons yesterday

any of the operational expertise or working understanding with Nato which the WEU has gradually acquired over the last few years. It would be inappropriate for the Commission, European Parliament or the European Court of Justice to have any role in defence decision making. The WEU should

be equally constant. We were not prepared to accept the social chapter proposed at Maastricht. The UK will not give up its opt-out and cannot be forced to do so.

Common fisheries policy: The Government accepts the need for a CFP, but believes its operation must be improved. It is determined to address "quota hopping" and other problems. "If treaty changes are needed we shall seek them."

Animal welfare: Further progress is needed to achieve a real and lasting improvement in welfare standards. The Government will put forward a proposal at the IGC to incorporate the principle of animal welfare in the Treaty of Rome, calling on EU legislation to pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals.

The paper concludes that the Government's approach is "constructive, realistic and rooted in the British national interest". The IGC offers a chance not only to introduce practical reforms but to reassure people that the EU "remains the servant of its members, not a threat to their independence. That is the right way to build public support."

We cannot be forced to give up our opt-out from the social chapter

be kept as an autonomous organisation within its own treaty base and its operational capacities should be developed to enable it to operate effectively in peacekeeping, humanitarian and other limited crisis-management tasks.

Justice and home affairs: Organised crime, terrorism, drug trafficking and illegal immigration must be tackled on a multinational

basis. But these are matters of high

domestic political sensitivity involving questions of national sovereignty such as the rules governing the admission of third country nationals, operations of police and customs and the criminal justice system.

"There can be no question of supranational solutions imposed on member states in these areas."

This area of work requires special procedures in the "third pillar" where all decisions must continue to be taken by unanimity and the role of the Parliament, Court and Commission are strictly limited.

Role of national parliaments:

National parliaments remain the primary focus of democratic legitimacy in the EU, holding ministers to account. The Government wants to develop this role. It wants a

minimum period for parliaments to scrutinise Community documents and notably draft legislation

entrenched in the Treaty of Rome and a greater role for national parliaments in the justice and home affairs pillar.

Social chapter: It is no secret

that other wish to see the UK's opt-out removed. "The Government's position, however, is well known

and equally constant. We were not

prepared to accept the social chapter proposed at Maastricht. The UK will not give up its opt-out and cannot be forced to do so."

Common fisheries policy: The Government accepts the need for a CFP, but believes its operation must be improved. It is determined to address "quota hopping" and other problems. "If treaty changes are needed we shall seek them."

Animal welfare: Further

progress is needed to achieve a real and lasting improvement in welfare standards. The Government will put forward a proposal at the IGC to incorporate the principle of animal welfare in the Treaty of Rome, calling on EU legislation to pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals.

The paper concludes that the Government's approach is "constructive, realistic and rooted in the British national interest". The IGC offers a chance not only to introduce practical reforms but to reassure people that the EU "remains the servant of its members, not a threat to their independence. That is the right way to build public support."

Stand by for much posturing between now and the election

The most revealing sentences in yesterday's White Paper were about the IGC timetable.

"There is no fixed end-date for the IGC. It is likely to last between one year and 18 months." In other words, until after the next British election. The White Paper is not intended to produce an early agreement. It is about preventing a Tory split.

Malcolm Rifkind played his cards skilfully yesterday. He emphasised the benefits of EU membership, but then talked about resisting the drift towards supranational institutions, as summed up in the White Paper's title, *A Partnership of Nations*. He touched all the right buttons in his list of British proposals — subsidiarity; limits to Community competence and action; keeping foreign defence and home affairs matters the responsibility of national governments and of inter-governmental co-operation; and reform of the workings of the European Court of Justice.

The latter is what angers Tory MPs most at present and Mr Rifkind's proposals to limit the retrospective application of judgments for an appeal system and to apply a good

faith test in assessing damages went down well.

Consequently, Mr Rifkind ensured that the White Paper was not immediately denounced by the sceptics — partly thanks to some assiduous briefing beforehand. Who was it I spotted in the Ambassador's Waiting Room next to the Foreign Secretary's office yesterday morning but Iain Duncan Smith and Bill Cash?

Ministers were drawing the sceptics' attention to paragraph 20A limiting the scope of Community action "to prevent the health and safety article being used for social policy by the back door and to prevent fiscal measures being taken onto single market or environmental proposals".

But the sceptics' restraint may not last long. The White Paper is a good deal less sceptical in detail than Mr Rifkind's public rhetoric.

Paragraph 12 says: "We must be realistic about the sort of changes we will accept. If we were to press the sort of changes we will not accept. If we were to press ideas which stand no chance

of general acceptance, some others would seek to impose an integrationist agenda which would be equally unacceptable from our point of view."

There were warnings in the Commons by several Tory sceptics about what might happen if the Government's proposals are not supported by other countries. Jonathan Aitken was more openly outspoken than most in arguing that "if by any chance these important battles were to fail ... then for the first time in many years this House would have to start to seriously consider the option of withdrawal". That remains a minority view, but it shows how quickly the sceptics may condemn any sign of "backsliding" by Government and to demand tougher measures.

How long will the sceptics be willing to give the Government the benefit of the doubt? Tough language about treaty changes over the European Court may limit public rambles in the short term, though many Tory MPs are always ready to raise the stakes on anything to do with

Europe. The Labour response yesterday was revealingly subdued. Robin Cook made much of Tory divisions but, uncharacteristically, welcomed much of the substance — in particular, the sections on justice, defence and foreign policy. Labour does not regard Europe as a big election issue.

So until the election we are likely to have a good deal of posturing, not just from Britain but from other EU members. The real negotiations will start in a year or so. But as a chart in the White Paper underlines, the IGC could then easily become entangled with the start of far more important negotiations in 1998 on enlargement, monetary union and a review of budgetary arrangements. The White Paper is merely a preliminary manoeuvre in this long campaign.

PETER RIDDELL

Rifkind risks bold strategy

By GEORGE BROCK, EUROPEAN EDITOR

WITH the publication of yesterday's White Paper, Malcolm Rifkind has finally emerged from the long shadow cast by his predecessor as Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd.

For Mr Rifkind, a politician who shares the reputation for caution and care traditionally associated with Edinburgh lawyers, risks offending his counterparts in the rest of Europe with a strategy the polite Mr Hurd might have declined.

The momentum of European integration may have slowed during the past few years, but it is still powerful enough to deliver regular reminders that Britain is in a minority on many issues. Britain does not have an ally — as does France, which can count

on almost automatic support from Germany — to help to achieve the kind of success General de Gaulle won by a combination of secret diplomacy and plain obduracy.

The White Paper, appearing just under three weeks before the EU's inter-governmental conference in Italy, brings the negotiating agenda into focus. Both the French and German Governments have been uncharacteristically vague about their aims so far.

The main flashpoints between Britain and her partners appear to be the extension of majority voting; arguments over words about future European defence; crime and immigration; and the powers of the European Parliament. France may join Britain in resisting significant changes.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPICE

MARE ST. LONDON E8 4SA
(Charity Reg. No. 23123)

Dear Anonymous Friends,

You did not wish your gifts to be publicised by human words of thanks. Their value goes in the mind and heart silently provided.

We have honoured your trust, and always will.

Sister Superior.

Car insurance over £300?

Call Admiral now
0800 600 800

ADMIRAL

Tory sceptics still fear a federal superstate

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, ALICE THOMSON AND JILL SHERMAN

HARDLINE Tory Eurosceptics warned yesterday that its White Paper would not halt the drive towards a federal Europe.

Jonathan Aitken stunned MPs by saying that the time could be approaching to consider pulling out of the European Union. And Norman Lamont said that all the elements were now in place for a European superstate.

But Malcolm Rifkind's promise of a renewed effort to curb the powers of the European Court of Justice appeared to be winning support among a significant group of right-wing Tories who have recently concentrated their energies on influencing policy from within.

Sir Michael Spicer, who led the Maastricht rebellion but now chairs the European Research Group, said that the 38-page document had given hope to those who believed that taking back powers from the court was the way to block a federal Europe. He was encouraged by the Government's readiness to challenge the court's tendency to fashion

social policy by the back door and to deal with the "ratchet effect" by demanding that EU directives need not be irreversible.

"But the question is: can specific actions be put behind the rhetoric?"

Both groups of sceptics are united in their belief that only by clawing back powers from Brussels can Britain stop itself being sucked into a European superstate. But they were divided over whether the White Paper signalled genuine concessions by the Government.

Hardliners said that the threat of a revolt remained. Another fierce critic of the Government doubted that ministers could achieve their objectives given the veto wielded by other member states.

In the Commons, John Redwood, the sceptics' unofficial leader, allied himself with the hardliners, calling for a tougher stance by ministers. He said: "Given the way the European Court is demolishing our fishing industry and our social chapter opt-out, will the Government look at stronger measures to assert the

rights of this Parliament against the court?"

Mr Lamont told the Foreign Secretary: "The real test of what you have said is whether this country can, over the next few years, avoid being sucked into a European state of the kind which I discovered at the last inter-governmental conference many of our partners do actually want."

Mr Aitken said: "I welcome those parts of the White Paper which seem to strike some good Eurosceptic themes for the first time. But may I warn you that if by any chance these important battles you and your team are going to fight were to fail, or if they were to be surrendered by the so-revealingly new Euro-philic Labour front bench we heard this afternoon, then for the first time for many years, this House would have to start to seriously consider the option of withdrawal."

Nicholas Budgen, one of the former whips Tory MPs, praised Mr Rifkind for making it plain that Britain didn't want any further moves towards federalism in Europe.

"But may I suggest to you that that may not be enough for the British people, and that at some stage we are going to have to say 'no' to one of the ludicrous laws that come from Brussels — to disobey, and thus demonstrate to the peoples of Europe that we must have a looser relationship."

Bill Cash, Tory MP for Stafford, called for a renegotiation of the Maastricht treaty. He said: "There is a clear sense in the electorates of Europe and in the UK that when one looks at the question of Bosnia, the exchange-rate mechanism, fishing, monetary union and a whole range of other matters the Maastricht treaty has failed the people of Europe."

Pro-European Tories were also split with Edwin Currie, a vice chairman of the cross-party European Movement, giving it five out of ten. "The White Paper would be far better if the government could move towards more of the pro-European proposals for referendum on a single currency. Those people who defend the rights of Parliament seem to

be those people who argue most vociferously for having a referendum which would undercut those rights," he said.

But Tim Rathbone, Tory MP for Bolsover, went further than any of the Tory Eurosceptics condemning the EU as 23 years of "unmitigated disaster". He said: "Millions of people out there are longing

for someone to say and admit that it's not worked, that the halcyon days are over."

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said that Labour "totally endorsed" what Mr Rifkind had said about justice, home affairs and the common foreign security policy, but he had failed to contribute to the single

currency debate. Mr Cook accused him of "pandering to the Tory backbenchers, trying to balance both sides", and said: "Mr Rifkind has come up with a White Paper that tries to please everyone, and, as a result, will please no one."

Simon Jenkins, page 18
Leading article, page 19

Brussels greets 'positive tone' with relief

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE White Paper was greeted with mild relief in Brussels yesterday as diplomats and Commission officials noted the Government's "unambiguous commitment" to the EU and that it had not sought to "repatriate" powers.

The White Paper's pledge that Britain will play a leading role in the EU and its definition of the Union as "the basis of democracy and prosperity" offered some reassurance to officials and diplomats who were concerned by the increasingly Eurosceptical rhetoric coming from London. Although the paper included the expected calls for reining in the European Court, it did not contain any of the radical ideas suggested by some Tory MPs such as revoking the common fisheries policy. "It has all the usual arguments but least they are sounding a positive note on Europe," a Commission official said.

However, much in the paper flies in the face of the Commission's desires for the inter-governmental conference, as well as those of Germany and most other member states. Just about all other states want more majority voting and more Commission management of justice

and home affairs. Most also want or will accept foreign policy actions that do not have unanimous backing.

Jacques Santer, the Commission President, says that he takes Britain's hardline demands with a pinch of salt, depicting them as an opening bid in a long round of negotiation.

"Standard British pragmatism" was how one French official summed up a first glance at the document, many of whose ideas are shared by President Chirac's administration. These include the refusal to extend the powers of the European Parliament and the desire to give national legislatures more say in the European law-making process. Britain's focus on the nation state, especially in foreign and defence policy, is shared by France, as is a desire to slim down the Commission and beef up the foreign policy secretariat.

Noticeably absent from the White Paper was a British slant on schemes promoted by France, Germany, the Commission and other states for a multiple-speed Europe, allowing countries to undertake deeper integration in the EU at their own pace.

A more or less fantastic idea from Compaq.

The Open University
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

MSc in Computing through open learning

The Open University offers experienced computer users and DP managers the chance to obtain an MSc degree in Computing for Commerce and Industry. You don't need a previous degree for entry to the programme.

Topics include: • Software engineering • Object Oriented Software Technology • Artificial intelligence • Project management • Relational database systems • Computer architectures & operating systems • User interface design & development • Digital telecomm

OU supported open learning

OU open learning helps you plan your study programme to fit your work pattern. Study wherever you live, in your own time. We supply all study materials, tutorial support and continuous assessment. Courses can be taken as one-offs or combined to earn Diploma or MSc qualifications.

Whether your interest is personal or corporate, it's good to know that these courses are used and recognised by many of the UK's leading companies and organisations. Send off now, or phone the OU Hotline 01908 652590

The Open University, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes MK1 1TY
Please send your brochure Computing for Commerce & Industry. C961Q
(published on April 1)

Name: Position: _____
Company: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____ Tel: _____
TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES 01908 652590
Save time, use the Hotline
University education and training open to all adults.

Compaq, the world's leading PC

manufacturer, is now offering its ProLinea and Deskpro PCs with increased processor power; increased hard drive; faster RAM and, at the same time, up to 20% off the price.

We'll repeat that: increased

processor power; increased hard drive;

faster RAM and yet, up to 20% off the price. So now, instead of having to choose between performance and value, you can just choose Compaq.

For more details, please send off the coupon or call 0990 23 24 25.



pentium®

Mr/Mrs/Ms (Initials) _____ Surname _____

Title _____ Company _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Telephone _____

Are your PCs networked? _____

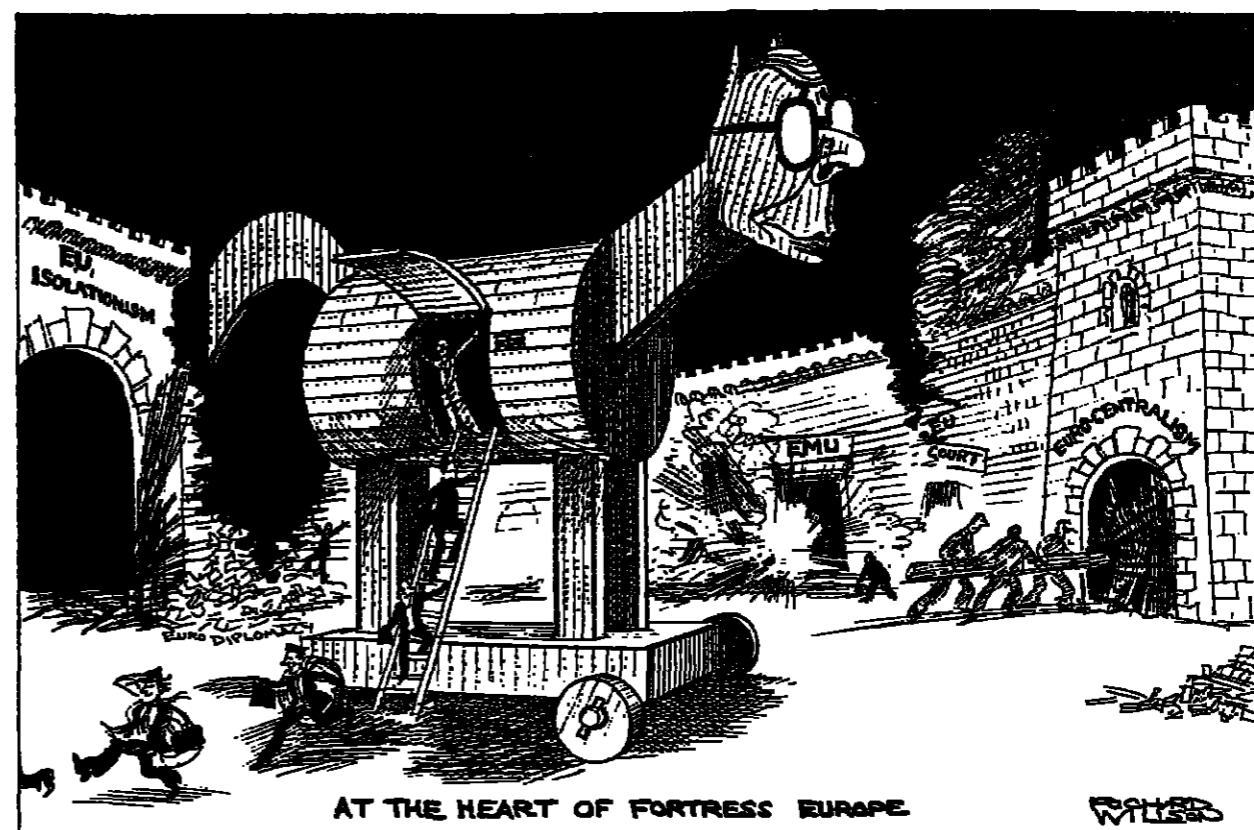
Number of employees at your place of work _____

We'd like to advise you of future products and offers. If you do not wish to receive them, tick here. Send to Compaq Computer Limited, FREEPOST, PO Box 21, 47 Aylesbury Road, Thame, Oxon OX9 3BR.

MORE 5

COMPAQ

TECHNOLOGY GONE SIMPLE



Treasury adviser accuses lottery of cheating the poor

By DOMINIC KENNEDY



THE National Lottery is little more than legalised fraud and must be abolished, one of the Treasury's "wise men" says today. Professor Tim Congdon says it "constitutes disguised taxation, redistributes from the poor to the rich, undermines savings and trivialises the State". He discloses that Baroness Thatcher, whom he used to advise on economic affairs, quickly rejected any notion of a state-run prize draw when Prime Minister.

"Mr Major is reported to be fascinated by the National Lottery and to regard it as an important achievement of his premiership, though Lady Thatcher, when she was Prime Minister, dismissed the idea after only peremptory consideration," Professor Congdon writes.

Camelot's licence requires it to redistribute 50.6 per cent of the stake as prizes, meaning that punters lose half their money each time they participate. So, if the public puts up

fious citizen should take its perpetrators, Her Majesty's Government no less, to the Serious Fraud Office," Professor Congdon writes in today's *Economic Affairs*.

Alternatively, Camelot might be referred to the Securities and Futures Authority, which has fined companies for "mis-selling" personal pension products.

Before the welfare state, poor people would put £1 a week into an insurance policy for protection against unemployment, ill-health and redundancy. Professor Congdon says, "Nowadays too many of the same group of people do not put spare cash into insurance policies, but into lottery tickets."

"A family which repeatedly spends £5 a week on the lottery and always reinvests its winnings is likely, after 25 years, to have exactly nothing in return. A family which puts £5 a week into a standard insurance policy ought, after the same term, to have an asset worth over £30,000."

Congdon: says draw was rejected by Mrs Thatcher

Thefts from cash machines reach a record £3.5m

By ADRIAN LEE

BANKS and building societies lost a record £3.5 million in thefts from cash machines last year. The figure was announced yesterday as banking sources said the gang that escaped with £87,000 from two cash dispensers at a Lloyds Bank branch in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, had deliberately chosen an old-fashioned machine.

Lloyds said the machines, sited in the bank's lobby, were due to be replaced. The apparent ease and speed with which the criminals forced open the machines prompted an immediate security review of lobby services. Police said a few simple tools were all that was needed.

The machines are made by a variety of manufacturers. The type in Peterborough is being phased out as part of an attempt to keep one step ahead of criminals who prey on Britain's 20,000 cash machines, which dispense £170 million a day.

A banking source said: "It is well known within the criminal fraternity that certain types of old-fashioned machines used by two banks are easier to get into than others." Cash machines have been targets since the first was

introduced by Barclays in 1967 at a branch in Edgware Road, London. Criminals have used forklift trucks to remove entire machines and, at the opposite end of the scale, built an entire shop facade complete with fake cash dispenser to obtain the cards and Pin codes of unwitting customers.

Richard Tyson-Davies, of the Association of Payment and Clearing Services, said: "It is an ongoing battle, we are not coy about that. There are a number of scams being used by criminals. Hopefully the latest is just a one-off but there will be a review and action will be taken if needed."

He said the losses were a tiny percentage of the total amount of cash dispensed from machines.

The Lloyds Peterborough branch was open yesterday after the installation of new cash machines. NatWest, Barclays and Midland all said the raid did not have any implications for them.

The amount stolen from cash machines rose by £300,000 last year at a time when plastic card fraud fell for the fourth consecutive year. Plastic card fraud amounted to £88.3 million last year, about half the 1992 level.

**IF YOU
PAY OVER
£1100
A YEAR
FOR GAS,
GET A NEW
ESTIMATE**

Now that you can choose your gas supplier, choose Amerada Hess Gas.

It's simple. Just ring and we'll tell you right away how much you could save when you switch to low cost gas from Amerada.

There'll be no new pipes, roadworks or inconvenience. Just numbers adding up in your favour.

So remember ours.



AMERADA HESS GAS
CALL 0500 00 11 00

BRINGING LOW COST
GAS TO YOU



The Savi's pipistrelle rests in the hand of Vicky Hose, a park ranger. The bat, found in a backyard, is only the second sighted in Britain

Wandering bat rescued from a feline mauling

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

A BAT that was saved from becoming a meal for two cats belongs to a species seen in Britain only once before. Wildlife experts are uncertain whether the male Savi's pipistrelle was a lone stowaway on a ship or belongs to a small migrant population.

The bat, nicknamed Wallace, was cornered by the cats in the backyard

of a house in Wallasey beside the Mersey and may have escaped from a ship that docked at Liverpool on the other side of the estuary.

Vicky Hose, a senior park ranger on the Wirral, who is nursing the bat back to health, said: "The lady in the house got to the bat just in time to rescue him. Luckily there were no holes in his wings or chewed bits. Normally when they are caught by cats they have claw marks that

develop infections later." Identification of the captive, weighing less than ten grams, came ten days later from Clementy Fisher, the chief bat specialist at Liverpool Museum. She

said: "Savi's pipistrelle is a warm-area bat that likes mountainous regions and is found right across the Mediterranean. Male bats travel considerable distances and will fly a long way to set up a territory of their own." The only other firm sighting of

a *Pipistrellus savi* was several years ago when it crawled out of a box of nectarines brought by ship from Italy to Wick on the northeast coast of Scotland.

When Wallace has recovered his strength, the weather is warmer and his favourite diet of insects is more plentiful, he will be released close to where he was found in the hope that he will lead watchers to the roosting sites of any fellow migrants.

Nato reinforces Sarajevo suburb as Serbs leave

FROM REUTER IN SARAJEVO

MUSLIM-CROAT authorities took control of the Sarajevo suburb of Ilidza from Bosnian Serbs yesterday as Nato moved in extra troops to try to limit looting and burning by the Serbs.

The streets of Ilidza and the inner-city Grbavica district, which the Serbs must hand over next week, were saturated with French peacekeepers.

Admiral Leighton Smith, US Commander of the Nato mission, said: "We've got our guys out there and we're doing everything we can, short of shooting people."

The deployment was too late to prevent the burning of many buildings in Ilidza which had survived the 3½-year Bosnian war.

The Muslim-Croat Federation in Bosnia has now taken control of four of the five Serb suburbs in Sarajevo under the Dayton peace agreement.

Their Serb populations, claiming they fear retaliation after the wartime siege of the city, have mostly fled to territory under the control of their Government.

A joint force of federation police moved into Ilidza with a jubilant crowd of civilians, but Muslim police excluded nine of its Croat members because they were wearing the blue uniforms of Croat police. The Muslims and Croats have been forced into a reluctant alliance by US diplomacy.

Political feuding did not mar the jubilation among ordinary people on the streets of Ilidza. Muslim and Croat refugees poured in to see whether their homes had survived the wave of arson. Serb police had left on Monday, firing guns and throwing grenades as they drove off, after protecting the withdrawal of the Serb population.

Sarajevo's Mayor announced yesterday that he had resigned because of the exclusion of Croat deputies from the Sarajevo cantonal assembly.

In Moscow, President Yeltsin lifted an arms embargo against the former Yugoslavia in three stages, to be completed by June 11, unless the United Nations objects.



Naina Yeltsin: "She is charming and modest, which is always highly valued in Russia"

DO YOU NEED THE DOCTOR MORE THAN HE DOES?

THE DOCTOR NEEDS TO GET TO HIM URGENTLY.

BUT COULD YOU BE GETTING IN THE WAY?

WHEN YOU'RE A BIT UNDER THE WEATHER,
THINK BEFORE CALLING YOUR DOCTOR OUT.

IF IT'S AN EMERGENCY, CALL.

WE'LL ALWAYS BE THERE.

BUT IF YOU COULD GET IN TO SEE US,
OR PHONE FOR ADVICE, ALL THE BETTER.YOU'LL BE GIVING US MORE TIME TO
GET TO SEE SOMEONE LIKE HIM.DOCTOR
PATIENT
PARTNERSHIP

Embattled Yeltsin deploys wife as secret poll weapon

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN'S campaign team has unveiled a secret weapon in its desperate search to improve the Russian leader's popularity three months before the presidential election.

In a break with the country's political tradition, Naina Yeltsin, the popular but reclusive Russian First Lady, has increased her public engagements and raised her profile in a move that Kremlin image-makers hope could be an important factor in winning the election.

In the five years since President Yeltsin came to power, his wife, aged 63, a homely grandmother of four, has remained behind the scenes of Russian politics, preferring to keep the family out of the limelight. However, over the past few months Mrs Yeltsin has appeared to be coming out of her shell. Firstly, she began making foreign trips, then she was quoted championing

women's causes and defending the rights of pensioners.

Recently Oleg Soskovets, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Yeltsin campaign manager, confirmed that Naina and her daughter, Tatyana, would be playing crucial roles in the re-election drive.

Now hardly a week goes by without Mrs Yeltsin making public appearances. Last month at a festival she took part in a traditional Russian folk dance, ate blini (pancakes) and chatted with ordinary Muscovites. Last week

she was given a rousing welcome when she accompanied her husband to a production of Gogol's *The Government Inspector*.

"There is no tradition of wives involving themselves in Russian politics," Larissa Vassilieva, the author of *Kremlin Wives*, a history of the wives of Soviet leaders, said. "But Naina Yeltsin could become a big political asset for the President. She is very natural and very practical. She could help Yeltsin to reconnect with the people. We will be seeing much more of her in the coming weeks."

The involvement of Russian wives in politics can be a two-edged sword. The 18th century in Russia was dominated by powerful women, notably Catherine the Great, who ruled for 34 years. However, Tsaritsa Alexandra's unpopularity contributed to bringing down the Romanov dynasty.

More recently, wives of Soviet leaders were excluded from political life with the exception of Raisa Gorbachev, whose reputation as a meddler in the affairs of state increased the antipathy towards her husband, Mikhail.

Yelena Shestopal, a professor at Moscow State University, said that there was no danger of Naina Yeltsin falling into the same trap because the two women and their families were so different.

"Naina Yeltsin gives the impression of being a domestic and traditional wife," she told the newspaper *Obshchaya Gazeta*. "She is occupied with everyday responsibilities and is charming and modest, which is always highly valued in Russia."

□ Gorbachev succeeds: Mr Gorbachev's backers have gathered the one million signatures needed to put his name on the presidential election ballot. (AP)

Sparta and Athens bury the hatchet

FROM JOHN CARR IN ATHENS

NO LONGER will Athenians and Spartans spear each other on the field of battle. The Peloponnesian War is formally at an end, 24 centuries after it started.

The Mayor of Athens, Dimitris Avramopoulos, and the Mayor of Sparta, Demosthenis Matasas, buried the hatchet in Sparta on Sunday — exactly 2,400 years after Athens surrendered — by signing a 200-word declaration pledging "unbreakable bonds" between the two cities whose rivalry dominated classical Greece.

The climax of that rivalry was the 27-year Peloponnesian War, which marked the start of Athens's decline as a leading Greek power. The historian Xenophon, who recorded the last years of the war, does not mention any treaty.

Nobody gave this a thought until the conservative Sparta city council, as a gesture to a fellow conservative, made Mr Avramopoulos an honorary citizen. Mr Avramopoulos saw the chance to make official something that most Athenians would probably have liked to forget.

IT'S GREAT WORKING IN
A MODERN OFFICE.
ISN'T IT?

THE OLIVER & CLAIRE STRIP

OIL OF ULAY EYE CONTOUR GEL (15ml JAR) DEFECTIVE PACKAGING

A small number of 15ml jars of Oil of Ulay Eye Contour Gel have been found to be defective. In these cases, fragments have broken away from the jar rim on opening, possibly due to misalignment of the lid and jar threads.

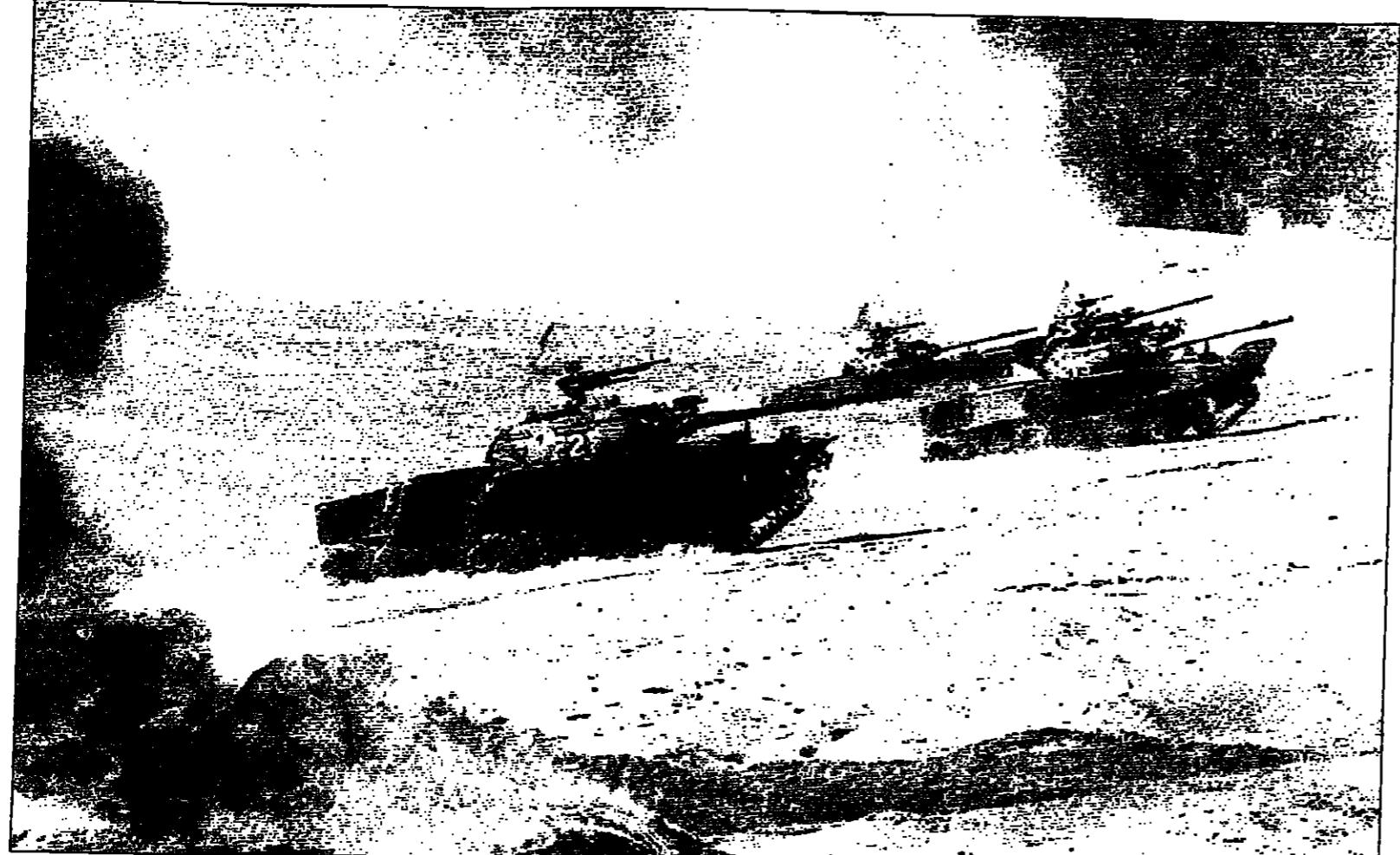
NO OTHER OIL OF ULAY
PRODUCT OR PACK IS AFFECTED.



EYE CONTOUR GEL 15ml - ACTUAL SIZE

Existing users of the Eye Contour Gel are advised to carefully inspect any jars that they already have at home. If you have any questions or wish to return the product for a refund, please call the Procter & Gamble freephone number on 0800 708708. (Republic of Ireland 1800 424344.)

Peking's hardline generals and politicians see island province as test of fitness to succeed Deng



Chinese amphibious tanks assault a beach on an island off the coast of Fujian province during war games held by the People's Liberation Army

Asia fears eruption of accidental war in Taiwan Strait

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

FOR the People's Liberation Army to get across the Taiwan Strait, establish a beachhead and win seems to many Western experts impossible. Look at Normandy, they say, the years of preparation, and the near thing that invasion was.

But from Peking, where hawkish generals and political leaders contending to look tough enough to succeed Deng Xiaoping see Taiwan as a test of patriotic manhood, an invasion may seem difficult but an ultimate problem only in terms of timing.

The army's battle record looks poor. Huge, backward, inexperienced, although with an annual budget of probably £13 billion to £19.7 billion rather than the published £4.6 billion, it attempted in 1949 an invasion of Quemoy, the Nationalist island just off

the mainland, and was bloodily and decisively repelled. In 1958, the Chinese army shelled Quemoy with high-explosives for months, but failed to crack the garrison's resolve. In 1979, Vietnam bled the Chinese invaders.

But now, because Peking considers Taiwan to be hurtling towards independence and because this is the time of the hardliners, an invasion must be considered. No matter what the Americans say, they are not ruling out this option as they move their reinforced naval forces nearer to Taiwan. In this hair-trigger atmosphere an accident could detonate more than war games.

Both sides are armed to the teeth, but China has a much bigger set. Its total armed forces amount to three million; Taiwan's to 376,000. China has 6,000 fighter aircraft; Taiwan has 450. China's are poorly maintained and probably no

more than a quarter can be airborne at a time. But Taiwan has only ten airfields. If several were destroyed, its aircraft, too, could not remain in the air in large numbers. China has 50 warships; Taiwan has 38. China has 52 submarines; Taiwan has four. China has 24 Su-27 Soviet fighters in the pipeline. Taiwan will soon acquire 150 F/A-18 Hornets and 60 Mirage 2000s.

In such a rapidly changing balance of forces, China will have to choose its moment carefully. That moment cannot be now. The number of "dedicated" invasion vessels is sufficient to carry only 12,000 to 15,000 mechanised troops and their 400 to 500 tanks. An invasion force needs superiority of at least three-to-one in numbers. There are 30,000 to 40,000 Nationalist soldiers on Quemoy. Conquering even that would be a tall order and

would be regarded by America as a pre-emptive strike, thus hastening a decision in Washington to intervene.

To go for Taiwan, China would have to mobilise a "people's invasion force" of tens of thousands of civilian vessels which would need to be converted for troop-carrying. They could not be assembled secretly and their purpose would have to be disguised in war games.

But such an invasion force would require upwards of 750,000 troops, who are not yet ready for such an action.

During the next year or two of

war games and manoeuvres China will be practising to coordinate and configure its forces for an invasion, tightening command and control and sharpening its newest weapons. If Taiwan preemptively attacks what it claims to be a poised invasion force, it would be hard for America to intervene in what it has agreed by treaty with Peking is one country: in this case that country's civil war. Although that same treaty appears to put Washington under some obligation to Taiwan, how much remains unclear.

Taiwan's task, as in the German defence of Normandy, would be to deter the operation at sea or crush it on the beaches. But if China smashed Taiwan's air bases, its single naval base and its oil reserves in a surprise tactical shock, the island's defensive infrastructure would be mortally wounded. Once the beach-heads were secure, as in Normandy, the inland fighting would be bloody but Taiwan's garrison would lose.

The imponderable, based on Washington's present policy of "creative ambiguity", is whether and in what force America would intervene.

QUEMOY BOMBARDMENTS DISTURB U.S.
MR. DELLAS WARNS TO PEACE
PRESIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT
A Times report on an earlier crisis

ca to intervene in what it has agreed by treaty with Peking is one country: in this case that country's civil war. Although that same treaty appears to put Washington under some obligation to Taiwan, how much remains unclear.

Taiwan's task, as in the German defence of Normandy, would be to deter the operation at sea or crush it on the beaches. But if China smashed Taiwan's air bases, its single naval base and its oil reserves in a surprise tactical shock, the island's defensive infrastructure would be mortally wounded. Once the beach-heads were secure, as in Normandy, the inland fighting would be bloody but Taiwan's garrison would lose.

The imponderable, based on Washington's present policy of "creative ambiguity", is whether and in what force America would intervene.

Satellite splashes down

A CHINESE spy satellite crashed harmlessly into the sea somewhere between Ascension and the Falkland Islands yesterday, ending fears that it might smash into Britain (Nick Nutall writes). The FS-1, launched in 1993, was tracked by military radar in Britain and America

as it ploughed through the atmosphere at 4.05am. A spokesman for the Fylingdales early warning centre in Yorkshire, which tracked the one-tonne capsule, said: "It would have hit the sea minutes later at several hundred miles an hour and would not have survived."

If you haven't got time for a BUPA Health Screen you probably need one.

Ten years ago, you never gave a minute's thought to your health. Then, bit by bit, your work started taking the place of your work-out.

It's an old story. And it helps explain why coronary heart disease strikes one man in four before the age of 65. And why poor health causes many people never to see their pension books.

Luckily, our doctors can alert you before your body does. And give early warning of later-life risks like cancer, liver damage or cholesterol. A full BUPA Health Screen is available for men at £342 and for women at £366.

A BUPA Health Screen takes up to three hours. How long have you got?

£50 OFF until 31 March 1996

To receive more information about the 15 tests that make up a BUPA Health Screen, and to secure your saving of £50, just call 0800 616 029 now (quoting reference BUPA 7), or fill in and post the coupon below to BUPA Health Screening, FREEPOST, London WC1X 8BR. You don't even need a stamp.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

Telephone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____
Prices including £50 discount. Women £316, Men £292. No other offers apply.
You're amazing. We want you to stay that way.

BUPA Health Screening

Sky unleashes the greatest ever 24 hours of sport - this weekend

champion v challenger

Support Frank Bruno, as he defends his WBC World heavyweight title against Mike Tyson. Watch the whole event, exclusively live, from 01.00am on 17th March.

Bugner v Welch
22.00 - Sat 16th

SKY sports 2

Naseem v Lawal
23.15 - Sat 16th

SKY sports 2

Cricket World Cup | Rangers v Celtic

final 09.00 - Sun 17th

SKY sports

13.15 - Sun 17th

SKY sports 2

don't miss this world-beating weekend on 16-17 March -

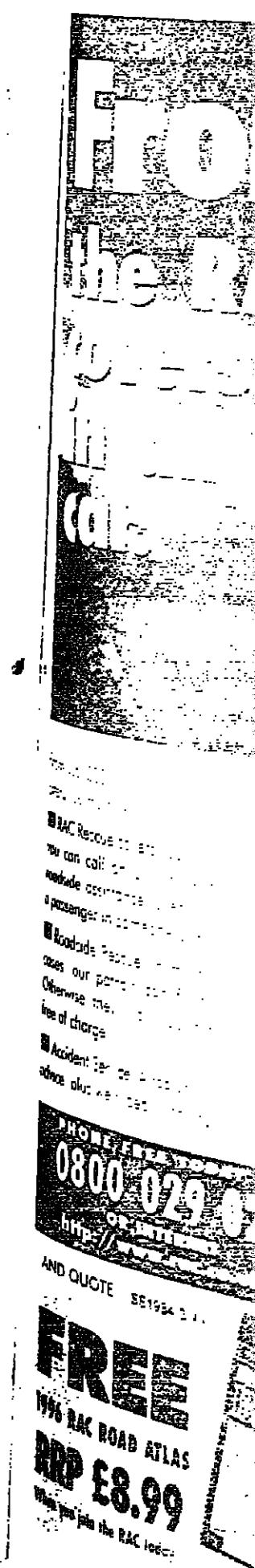
so get connected to Sky now!

All the events listed above, except Bruno v Tyson, are automatically available to Sky Sports subscribers.

<http://www.sky.co.uk>



NO TURNING BACK



eruption
ntal war
n Strait

Defences are strengthened as nervous islanders clamour for passports and dollars

China warns US of 'danger in giving Lee wrong signals'

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

AS CHINA yesterday began military exercises in the strait opposite Taiwan with mock bombing runs and at least ten warships, Peking admonished the United States for sending aircraft carriers to the area, saying this could encourage Taiwan's leaders to think that they had American support for independence.

Taiwan has strengthened defences on its offshore islands in case mainland troops attempt to seize one, and there has been a rush of applications for passports. Residents fear that this time Peking's threats must be taken

seriously. Others are moving their money offshore. "I am not afraid," said Wang Chun, 68, a veteran of the civil war in China. He lives in the Pescadores, one of the closest points to the latest exercises. "There are a lot of seagulls around here and I stand a better chance of being hit by one of their missiles than one fired by the Chinese."

The eight-month crisis has turned Taiwan's stock market into a rollercoaster, and its vaunted foreign currency reserves have been drained by a run on dollars.

The exercises are due to last eight days and precede Taiwan's first presidential election on March 23, which Peking says will presage a move towards independence. They follow the launching of at least four Scud-like M9 missiles just Friday into waters near Taiwan's two largest ports.

The US aircraft carrier *Independence* and escorting vessels were by yesterday sailing about 100 miles east of Taiwan, while a second American naval force, headed by the carrier *USS Nimitz* and including a submarine, was on its way from the Gulf — the biggest naval buildup in the region since the Vietnam War, according to military sources.

The US vessels would be in what Warren Christopher, American Secretary of State, said was "a position to be helpful" — though he did not specify what kind of help.

Quemoy, less than one and a quarter miles from the mainland, is Taiwan's defensive front line, and local authorities there were preparing

"What I want to emphasise

is to raise combat readiness to one level short of imminent war. All soldiers on leave have been recalled and troops were digging new trenches along roadsides. China shelled the island in 1958.

On Taiwan itself, travel agents reported a doubling in people wanting to leave. At the Foreign Ministry, hundreds of people queued to renew or apply for passports. "I want to leave," said Ms Chen Wenchun, 28, a teacher. "I am afraid they will attack."

In Peking, Shen Guofang, Foreign Ministry spokesman, told a news conference in unusually sharp language:

"Let me caution the US side that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese people are entirely able to handle their own business."

Mr Shen blamed America for its alleged role in the current tension in the strait. He accused Washington of committing wrong actions by allowing President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan to visit America last June, by selling advanced weapons to Taiwan,

and by upgrading diplomatic ties with Taipei. Such actions had "served to support and connive at the Taiwan authorities' separatist activities" and contributed to volatile Sino-US relations.

The spokesman recalled the

American Civil War when, he

Mao's forces driving out those of Chiang Kai-shek to Taiwan (then Formosa) in 1949.

As tension has mounted, Peking-based correspondents have been denied permission to visit Fujian or Guangdong provinces opposite Taiwan until next month.

President Lee, himself a member of the Nationalist Party which believes in one China (though one ruled by the Nationalists), has said he does not favour independence for Taiwan, as Peking claims, but that reunification depended on democratisation by the Chinese Government.

He reiterated this week that Taipei did not want war with China. But Chiang Chung-lai, Taiwanese Defence Minister, has said Taiwan could fight if Peking's forces violate its territory or its 12-nautical-mile territorial limits.

China's Communists and Nationalists fought their own civil war which, in effect, has never formally ended but only been suspended. It resulted in

the Americans were opposed to outside interference and stressed territorial integrity and sovereignty.

China's Communists and Nationalists fought their own civil war which, in effect, has never formally ended but only been suspended. It resulted in

the Americans were opposed to outside interference and stressed territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader and front-runner for the presidential nomination, has criticised the White House for a weak approach to Chinese violations of human rights and arms accords.

He has sidestepped his usual bipartisan caution over foreign policy and moved towards a more

formal embrace of Taipei. America, he said, has strong ties to Taiwan and "if necessary, we should protect them". He suggested that the Chinese were testing the wavering foreign policy of the Clinton Administration. Steve Forbes, the multimillionaire publisher and presidential rival, has said America should be prepared to go to war to defend the island.

The Taiwan issue is at the heart

of the "One China" agreement that emphasised the resumption and eventual normalisation of official ties between Washington and Peking during the Nixon and Carter Administrations. An original defence treaty between America and Taiwan was abrogated after President Nixon visited China in 1972 and recognised that Peking, not Taipei, was the Government of a single China.



Taiwanese troops on the western island of Penghu yesterday after Taipei put its forces on a heightened state of alert

WORLD SUMMARY

Amnesty attacks Peking

China's economic reforms have made its people richer and given them more freedom, but the Government still systematically persecutes all political opponents, Amnesty International said today.

"Human rights violations continue on a massive scale," the human-rights watchdog said in a new report. "The authorities have demonstrated that they are willing to use any means, whether legal or illegal, to protect the established order." A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said the report was not even worth refutation. (Reuters)

Turkish coalition wins go-ahead

Ankara: Mesut Yilmaz, the leader of Turkey's new centrist coalition Government, won a vote of confidence to end 11 weeks of uncertainty.

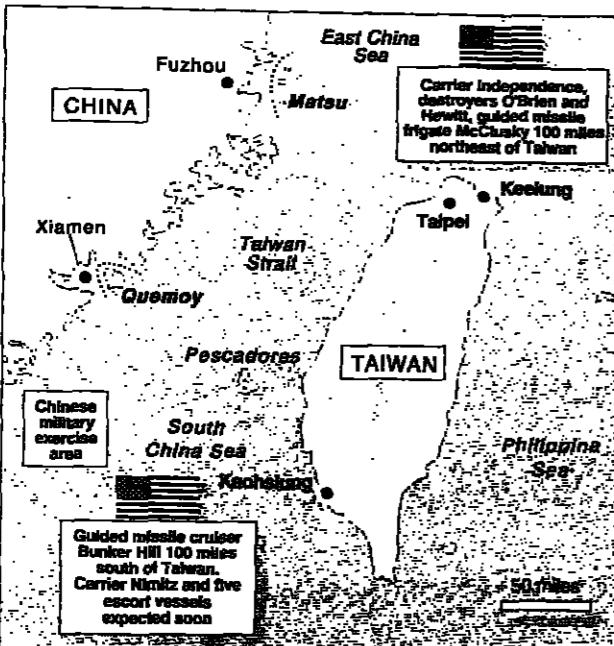
The 261-member coalition, made up of Mr Yilmaz's Motherland Party and the True Path party of Tansu Ciller, the former Prime Minister, was formed under pressure from business and military circles to keep an Islamic party from power. (AP)

Three killed in gold mine riot

Jakarta: Fragile calm returned to Irian Jaya after thousands of residents rioted around the American-owned Freeport gold mine, leaving three dead, a church source said. Troops had fought rioters at the local airport and other buildings. Rioting began on Sunday after a road accident involving a resident and a mine employee. (AFP)

A miracle of modern science

Lourdes: The Notre Dame sanctuary at Lourdes, supposedly blessed with healing powers, to which millions of pilgrims flock annually, has gone on the Internet. The World Wide Web address is: <http://lourdes.edi.fr/lourdes>



Chorus grows on Capitol Hill for clear commitment to Taipei

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

THE Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General John Shalikashvili, yesterday added his voice to those of the top American officials who have condemned Chinese military action in the Taiwan Strait.

The dispatch of two American battle groups to the region was a clear signal, General Shalikashvili

said, that the United States hoped that the situation would return to normal "very soon".

Despite such repeated warnings from military officials, from William Perry, the Secretary of Defense, Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State and President Clinton, America remains deliberately vague about the depth of its commitment to the defence of Taiwan. This policy of "strategic

ambiguity", explaining that any Chinese attack would be treated as a grave offence while never stipulating what could trigger American intervention, has long been viewed by the most prudent position to adopt.

But recent sabre-rattling by Peking in the year that America holds a presidential election has produced a rising Republican chorus of China critics on Capitol Hill and

outside Washington who are pushing for a more explicit commitment by the Administration.

Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader and front-runner for the presidential nomination, has criticised the White House for a weak approach to Chinese violations of human rights and arms accords. He has sidestepped his usual bipartisan caution over foreign policy and moved towards a more

formal embrace of Taipei. America, he said, has strong ties to Taiwan and "if necessary, we should protect them". He suggested that the Chinese were testing the wavering foreign policy of the Clinton Administration. Steve Forbes, the multimillionaire publisher and presidential rival, has said America should be prepared to go to war to defend the island.

The Taiwan issue is at the heart of the "One China" agreement that emphasised the resumption and eventual normalisation of official ties between Washington and Peking during the Nixon and Carter Administrations. An original defence treaty between America and Taiwan was abrogated after President Nixon visited China in 1972 and recognised that Peking, not Taipei, was the Government of a single China.

From just £30 the RAC covers you in any car.

From just £30 for a full 12 months' cover, no one offers you more security on the road than the RAC:

■ RAC Rescue covers you, not your car. So now you can call on us whenever you need fast roadside assistance, even when you're simply a passenger in someone else's car.

■ Roadside Rescue. In more than 8 out of 10 cases, our patrols can fix cars on the spot. Otherwise, they'll tow you to a nearby garage, free of charge.

■ Accident Service. A replacement car, free legal advice, plus we'll deal with your insurers.

■ Theft and Vandalism Cover. If your car's stolen or can't be driven because of vandalism, we'll remove it to a nearby garage or secure area.

■ Battery Assist. A new battery on the spot.

Whatever service you use, callouts and our labour are free — you only pay for parts.

You can also tailor your cover to meet your needs, with the option to take out Joint and Family Cover or add our 'At Home' service.

Don't wait until you break down. Find out how to join the RAC today.

PHONE FREE TODAY ON
0800 029 029

OR INTERNET
<http://www.rac.co.uk/>

AND QUOTE SS1994/3/XX

FREE

10% 240,000 miles
RRP £3.99

What you should expect

YES — I want to join the RAC.

Please tell me how I can join from just £30*

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Send to: RAC Rescue, FREEPOST,
Bristol BS38 7AU. (No stamp needed.)

Please enclose £30 if you pay by Continuous Credit Card Authority or Direct Debit. Cash enclosed price is £41 and discount applies to your first membership only. All prices include an enrollment fee. Phone lines open Monday — Friday 9am — 5pm, Saturday 9am — 5pm, Sunday 10am — 4pm.

ST0004/SS1994/3/XX



first direct

06:30



Ian Francis enjoys his breakfast and settles his Visa bill.

11:15



Jake O'Sullivan teases his mother as she asks about her mortgage.

23:30



Bob Sparks wakes with a start and calls to pay his gas bill.

change your life change your bank

no more rushing to beat closing time

Not all banks are the same. First Direct set out to change the face of banking in 1989. We were committed to providing a service that enabled customers to arrange their banking around their lives, on their terms. We recognised that bank closing times were a source of bitter frustration, so we are open every hour of every day of the year. One simple phone call, charged at local call rates, gives access to a comprehensive range of banking services. From loans to sharedealing, savings to travellers cheques. One of our Banking Representatives will be on hand to take your call from wherever you are.

never be treated like a number again

Because First Direct does not need any high street branches, we can invest the cost savings we make into training and new technology. We recruit our staff first and foremost on the basis of their people skills and then equip them with the necessary banking acumen. Our customers find that they are always treated with care and courtesy and we are always looking for new ways to help. Take bill payment — our customers can arrange to pay their household bills by phone, simply telling us who to pay, how much and when. Our approach seems to be well received as 89% of our customers actively recommend us to their friends and colleagues.

manage your money your way

Many of our customers find that just a three minute call each month is all it takes to manage their finances. With every First Direct Cheque Account comes the First Direct Card, which guarantees cheques for up to £100. Your Card also allows you to withdraw up to £500 daily from the cash machines of Midland, NatWest, TSB, Clydesdale, Northern and the Royal Bank of Scotland.

benefit from free banking, even if you are overdrawn

Incurring punitive bank charges for going a few pounds overdrawn seems as nonsensical to us as it does to you. That's why at First Direct there are no charges for writing cheques, standing orders, direct debits and cash machine withdrawals, even if your account is overdrawn. You also get an automatic overdraft facility of up to £250 of any arrangement fees, to help with monthly budgeting. All you pay is a competitive rate of interest on the precise amount you borrow.

Changing your bank is far easier than you might expect. It is worthwhile because First Direct has changed banking for good.

The time is right. Call us now on

0800 24 24 24

*Survey undertaken by NOP Market Research among 1,000 randomly selected current account customers. Interview was conducted by telephone between 21 October 1994 and 16 November 1994. Enquiry must be on aged 18 or over. In order to safeguard our customers, certain transactions may require written confirmation. First Direct retains the right to decline to accept an account for you. Under agreement to lend you money we will make sure you can afford the repayment. For written details of our services write to First Direct, First Direct, Freepost HK 16, Leeds, LS9 8RS. First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc, a member of the HSBC Group.

ALSO

Post to: First Direct, Freepost HK 16, Leeds, LS9 8RS. (no stamp needed) to receive more information on First Direct.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms or Title _____ Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Telephone (inc. std.) _____

BC66

Anti-corruption detectives seize top Rome judge

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ONE of Italy's most respected judges became the latest senior victim of the anti-corruption crusade by Milan's "Clean Hands" (Mani Pulite) magistrates yesterday.

Renato Squillante, 71, chief examining magistrate in Rome, was arrested on corruption charges in an early-morning raid on his home led by Ildo Boccassini, the leading anti-Mafia investigator.

Lawyers defending Judge Squillante said the charges against him related to the alleged payment of bribes, or *tangenti*, in return for favourable or lenient judgements. Some of the alleged incidents took place in the 1980s. The network of bribery uncovered by the Milan magistrates, beginning in 1992, became known as *tangentopoli*, embracing more than 3,000 businessmen and officials involved in corruption over the past decade.

The fact that Judge Boccassini led the team making the arrest suggests a link with her campaign against organised crime. Judge Boccassini, 46, has built a reputation as a fearless crusader against the Mafia and was instrumental in tracking down the killers of Judge Giovanni Falcone, blown up by Cosa Nostra in 1992.



Squillante investigation involved bugging a bar

The move against Judge Squillante may also be intended to counteract a public mood of slight weariness with the "Clean Hands" campaign and the perception that it has lost momentum.

The police said that Judge Squillante's arrest came after an investigation involving the bugging of a bar near the law courts frequented by members of the judiciary. The owner of the bar said yesterday that the bugging device had been hidden in an ashtray.

Judge Squillante's arrest sent shock waves through a legal profession used to repeated disclosures of high-level corruption. The judge at

In Naples, those arrested included several prison staff and policemen accused of acting as bodyguards for imprisoned Mafia and Camorra members. One Camorra boss, Pietro Cozzolino, allegedly had lived a *dolce vita* life in prison, able to use mobile telephones to continue directing drug trafficking and gunrunning.

■ Mestre Baldacci Di Maggio, a Mafia turncoat, told magistrates in this northern Italian city yesterday that he refused to give evidence at the murder trial of suspects linked to the killing of Judge Falcone because he feared for his safety. He added that he would be prepared to give evidence elsewhere and on videotape. (AP/FP)

one time headed the body that monitors ethical standards at the Rome stock exchange.

The arrest came as police were savouring their triumph in breaking up a drug-trafficking ring with Mafia connections in Rome and Naples. Nearly 200 people were rounded up on Monday, 40 of them in Rome, including Faustina Moretti, a witness in the trial of Giulio Andreotti, the former Prime Minister accused of involvement in the Mafia murder of Minio Pecoraro, a journalist.

In Naples, those arrested included several prison staff and policemen accused of acting as bodyguards for imprisoned Mafia and Camorra members. One Camorra boss, Pietro Cozzolino, allegedly had lived a *dolce vita* life in prison, able to use mobile telephones to continue directing drug trafficking and gunrunning.

■ Mestre Baldacci Di Maggio, a Mafia turncoat, told magistrates in this northern Italian city yesterday that he refused to give evidence at the murder trial of suspects linked to the killing of Judge Falcone because he feared for his safety. He added that he would be prepared to give evidence elsewhere and on videotape. (AP/FP)



Winnie Mandela creates a new image, swapping her old African dress, left, for a business suit; friendly handshakes replace the black power salute

Queen of controversy launches charm offensive

FROM INTIGO GILMORE
IN JOHANNESBURG

WINNIE MANDELA, displaying a new hairstyle, wardrobe and attitude, has bounced back into the limelight in an unfamiliar role: the model politician. After a lengthy period in the wings, South Africa's queen of controversy has returned centre stage, making peace with her enemies and

talking loftily of standards in political conduct. Witnesses have reported how two weeks ago Tony Leon, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, and perhaps her staunchest critic, choked on his lunch when she approached his table in the parliamentary dining room and said sweetly that she had decided to be friendly to all.

Complementing her new-found moderation, the flamboyant West

African dresses have been discarded for business suits and a briefcase. Her poof-style hairdo may raise smiles, but she is determined to be taken seriously. The image overhaul comes amid signs of a thaw in her political isolation nearly a year after the former deputy minister was sacked by President Mandela for misconduct. Along with two other populist MPs, she was this week given the important task of

mobilising support for the ANC in KwaZulu/Natal in the run-up to May's local government elections.

One South African newspaper, whose reporters were once singled out by Mrs Mandela for condemnation, have hailed "the new and improved Winnie". But it is the divorce hearings with her husband, which begin next week, that are seen as the yardstick for her supposed change of heart.

González in no hurry to quit stage

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

POLITICAL deadlock gripped the Spanish Government yesterday after Felipe González, the defeated Socialist Prime Minister, refused to discuss the transition of power with his conservative successor.

José María Aznar, the Popular Party leader who is trying to form a majority government, was cold-shouldered by Señor González, the caretaker Prime Minister, who was in no hurry to abandon the trappings of office.

Both appeared to agree on the key issues facing the country — European policy, the economic situation, re-

gional demands, the welfare state and terrorism — as Señor Aznar started his first round of talks with Spain's political leaders in his search for allies.

But, after their 90-minute meeting at the Moncloa Palace, the Prime Minister's official residence, it emerged that for Señor Aznar the prize seemed so near, yet so far.

One of the leaders spoke clearly and confidently, appearing to have a complete grasp of the situation, while the other waffled and fudged answers, failing to spell out his game plan. Unfortunately for the electorate, the former

was Señor González and the latter was Señor Aznar.

"We do not have any hurry in this transition period because we believe that the negotiations are relatively complex and difficult. But we do not believe they will take too long," said Señor González, licking his lips over the humiliating predicament of his rival, who had demanded his resignation in the parliament almost weekly as government scandals multiplied during the last legislature.

Señor González said his party would still vote against Señor Aznar at his investiture.

Leading article, page 19

Nigeria runs Sanction risk

LONDON: Nigeria could face calls for an oil embargo, the freezing of assets and banning of all new investment if General Sani Abacha, its military leader, refuses to meet a Commonwealth group in the next few weeks (Michael Binyon writes).

The conservative leader claimed that his talks with the regional nationalists were going on at "a good rhythm". However, he admitted that all the parties would have to drop part of their electoral programmes to be reached.

Punitive measures are already being considered by the Clinton Administration, which has circulated proposals to force General Abacha to move towards democracy.

Violence flares again in drive for Corsican independence

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ALMOST a quarter of French voters believe Corsica should be granted independence, according to a poll published this week after a fresh wave of terrorist violence in which three people were killed and the Paris home of an investigative reporter was sprayed with gunfire.

The survey, published in *Le Parisien*, found that just 61 per cent of French people thought the Mediterranean island and birthplace of Napoleon should remain French, while 24 per

cent said it should be granted full independence.

Jean-Louis Débré, the Interior Minister, has tried to launch a peace process in Corsica by opening talks with nationalists. "The other path would lead to a deadlock of violence and hatred," M Débré said yesterday.

In the past year separatist violence has claimed 40 lives. Last Friday, for the first time in the 20-year conflict, the violence spread to the mainland when the home of Guy

Benhamou, a journalist for *Liberation* and an expert on Corsican affairs, was peppered with machinegun fire. M Benhamou was away but police said the incident was intended as a warning.

The journalist had recently written about alleged government talks with the "historic wing" of the outlawed Corsican National Liberation Front, the most violent of the separatist groups. The Government denies the talks are going on.

I need to
communicate.
I need NEC.

No two days are the same. No two jobs are the same. So you need a notebook computer that will adapt to your requirements, instantly.

Versa 4000 is a range of highly specified notebook computers with a unique modular construction. It has a slot we call VersaBay II which usually houses a built-in CD-ROM drive that can easily be swapped for a second battery to give a combined 10 hours of battery life. Or for a second hard disk drive

to produce over 2.0GB of storage. Or for the floppy disk drive that comes as standard.

In addition, the remarkable Versa Docking Station converts Versa 4000 into a powerful desktop in an instant.

Who wants yesterday's notebook when you can treat yourself to a new one every day? Versa 4000. A notebook designed to be as flexible as you. For more information phone 0345 300 103.

*If I want
I can
have a new
Versa
every day*

Intel Inside Pentium

NEC

THE HOME INSURANCE SUPERMARKET

For LOW COST
Quality House & Contents Insurance

Wherever you live and whatever type of house you live in, Hill House Hammond has got a money saving policy for you. We offer over 60 different policies, all with special features.

Just look at our highly competitive rates and the wide range of special discounts we have on offer and ask yourself how does your existing insurer or Building Society compare?

SEMI DETACHED



Quality Cover from as LOW as
Buildings £45
Contents £35

Call the Semi Hotline NOW on

01473 233577

MODERN HOMES



Extra 10%
Discount

for Homes built after 1980.

Call the Modern Hotline NOW on

0115 920 3220

BUNGALOWS SAVE up to 30%



Buildings & Contents
cover from
JUST £69

Call the Bungalow Hotline NOW on

01590 679522

HIGHER VALUE PROPERTIES



Special rates for properties insured for OVER £150,000
Properties can be expertly tailored to meet your exact needs

Call the High Value Hotline NOW on

01863 346444

PLUS SPECIAL DISCOUNTS

We have a range of policies that offer EXTRA discounts and features.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEMBERS

All Neighbourhood Watch members qualify for

reduced premiums. Ring today for further details.

Call the NWM Hotline NOW on

01329 233025

RETIRED & OVER 50's

We have a selection of policies offering age related discounts,

which could save you up to 50%.

Call the 50 Plus Hotline NOW on

01323 416160

CLAIM FREE HOUSEHOLDERS

Our Bonus range of policies offer an immediate

No Claims Bonus of up to 25%.

Call the Claim Free Hotline NOW on

01476 593242

Start Saving Money - Ring your Hotline

Number NOW or contact your local branch on

0345 123111

all calls charged at local rate

Hill House Hammond

For Quality Insurance You Can Afford

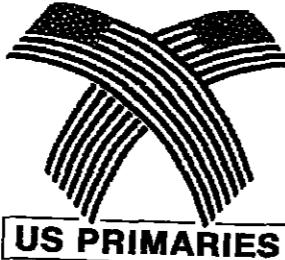
Health fears fail to halt Dole's march to victory

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

EVEN before polling was over, Robert Dole yesterday confidently predicted a clean sweep of the seven "Super Tuesday" primaries. But the private fear of many Republicans as he drives inexorably onwards to their party's nomination is that he may not be strong enough physically to survive the immense task ahead of him.

Mr Dole is at present full of energy and in remarkably good health for a 72-year-old but, as if a year of non-stop campaigning were not grueling enough, he is still leading the Senate. Were he to defeat President Clinton in November, he would be the oldest American to take on what is unquestionably one of the world's most demanding jobs.

Mr Dole spent 39 months fighting for his life after being seriously wounded in the Sec-



US PRIMARIES

ond World War. As a result of his injuries, his right arm is paralysed and atrophied and his left is partially crippled. He has only one kidney and his prostate gland was removed in 1991 because of cancer. In addition he takes at least five medicines to control several problems, including a high cholesterol level.

He looks younger than his years, partly because he dyes his hair and sports a near-permanent tan from sitting on

the balcony of his Senate office. Exit polls have nonetheless shown that almost a third of this year's Republican primary voters are concerned about his age. This is a factor that Mr Clinton, a relative spring chicken at 49, can be relied on fully to exploit during the eight months leading up to the election.

Acutely conscious of the problem, Mr Dole has promised to select a running-mate "ready to take over on day one if necessary". He has allowed himself to be photographed working out on the treadmill in his Watergate flat, and has authorised his doctors to release and freely discuss his medical records.

These reveal that he enjoys lower blood pressure, a lower weight and better cholesterol levels than Mr Clinton, a notorious trencherman. Mr Dole often jokes that he is "not going to make health an issue in the campaign". Dr Charles Peck of Washington's Walter Reed Army Medical Centre, said Mr Dole was "really in excellent health, with excellent cardiovascular stamina and his mental capacity is, of course, excellent".

What would happen if Mr Dole's health did fail him between now and November is a subject that neither the American media nor any Republican official has publicly discussed, but the party would obviously be thrown into turmoil and the pressure on Colin Powell, the highly popular retired general, to rescue it would be immense.

Mr Dole's age has helped him during the primaries, winning him big majorities



Robert Dole reveals his weariness as he campaigns for the Republican nomination

among older voters, but a *Washington Post* poll yesterday showed that voters over 60 backed Mr Clinton against Mr Dole by 62 per cent to 34. This is partly because the elderly are aware of the limitations of age, and partly because Mr Clinton has strongly resisted Republican efforts to cut the Medicare health insurance programme for the elderly.

The same poll showed Mr

Clinton leading Mr Dole by 56 per cent to 39 among all voters, while another poll, for *USA Today*, showed the President ahead of the senator by 12 points. After a primary season in which Mr Dole has veered sharply to the political right, the *Post* poll showed political moderates backing Mr Clinton by nearly two to one. Just a third of respondents were enthusiastic about Mr Dole, compared with 45 per cent

who said they supported Mr Clinton.

Vote threat: Washington, the free world's capital, may be forced to cancel its presidential primaries this spring for lack of funds. Election officials have complained to the near-bankrupt city council that they have insufficient money to conduct May's primaries as well as November's presidential election and various local elections.

Bush opposes easing of sanctions on Iraq

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

GEORGE BUSH, the former American President, yesterday urged the world not to ease sanctions against Iraq until Baghdad accounted for more than 600 Kuwaiti prisoners taken to Iraq after the invasion in 1990.

Speaking on the first day of an international conference in London, Mr Bush told veterans of the Gulf War, politicians and human rights campaigners that he had no regrets about not going all the way to Baghdad. He said that,

if the allies had occupied it, the war coalition would have handed Saddam a victory out of the jaws of a humiliating defeat".

Mr Bush replied to critics who noted that President Saddam Hussein was still in office while he and Baroness Thatcher, who will speak at the concluding luncheon today, were not. "Hell no, I'm not glad he's still there. But that was not an objective of the coalition."

Sliced shot lands a novice golfer with \$3m lawsuit

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A NEW YORK court is to decide if an amateur golfer was negligent when he sliced a shot. The ball went flying in the direction of the clubhouse terrace and knocked unconscious a non-golfer blithely surveying the view.

James Henn, 29, a Wall Street bond trader, fell to the floor when the ball struck him on the bridge of his nose. "The ball hits him right between the eyes and knocks him out," his lawyer, Alan Schnurman, told a preliminary hearing. It was a potentially fatal blow, claimed Mr Schnurman, whose client is seeking \$3 million (£2 million) in compensation.

Mr Henn had been sipping a drink on the verandah of the Rockaway Hunting Club on Long Island, enjoying the warmth of a July day. Twenty yards away, on the edge of the 18th hole, 32-handicap golfer Alan Greco was struggling to find his form at the end of a testing round on which he had repeatedly mistimed his shots. The fateful chip shot went

similarly awry. Justice Beverly Cohen ruled that there may be a case to answer in court because Mr Greco, 33, did not shout "fore" — the customary air raid warning of golfers — until after he struck the ball. The case is scheduled to start in the Manhattan Supreme Court on Monday.

The plaintiff and defendant are colleagues in the municipal bond department at Lehman Brothers, a prominent Wall Street finance house. The incident occurred on a company golf day, but Mr Henn opted for the role of spectator because he is not keen on golf.

Mr Greco's lawyer, Charles Borsetti, will argue that the sliced shot is an unavoidable, even celebrated, feature of the game. "Errant golf shots are not negligent," he said.

The case is likely to see lawyers wielding three-irons in the courtroom, and there will be reference to the laws and customs of the sport.

It is not known if Justice Cohen is herself a golfer.

Beat the price rise.

Vehicle rescue from just

£28*

JOIN TODAY CALL FREE

0800 000 111

LINES OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY 8AM TO 7PM

AND SUNDAY 9AM TO 7PM

REF: C905



Post today No stamp needed

TO: GREEN FLAG National Breakdown, FREEPOST, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS9 2NB. Please send me the INFORMATION PACK.

NAME (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

HOME TEL

ADDRESS

COUNTRY

POST CODE

*Plus a once only enrolment fee of £9.00 unless if you join by Direct Debit. Caps registered before 31/7/87 are subject to additional fee of £12.50. Current prices valid until 31/3/96.

T-shirts herald terror summit at 'Snoopy Club'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN SHARM EL SHEIKH

HUNDREDS of scantily-clad tourists wearing "Stop Terrorism" T-shirts mingled with sweating secret servicemen from about 30 nations as world leaders began arriving in this balmy but ill-equipped Red Sea resort for today's four-hour "anti-terrorism" summit — an event dismissed by one French reporter as "Alice in Wonderland at the seaside".

So scarce were hotel rooms for the 1,500 journalists expected at this southernmost tip of the Sinai peninsula that Uri Drori, chief of Israel's Government Press Office, advised a chartered plane load of reporters from Tel Aviv to take their own sleeping bags.

The T-shirts, one with a large shark depicting the terrorists, sold at a £1 discount to conference delegates. They summed up the media-oriented nature of the event. Three Arab leaders have claimed the credit for suggesting it to President Clinton, whose sea-front villa was patrolled by 11 rubber launches filled with heavily-armed frogmen.

"I seriously wish them well, but how can they think that a few hours and a lunch in the sunshine is going to stop the bombs going off?" asked Tom Guttridge, a retired sales director from Essex. He was one of thousands of holidaymakers obliged to move rooms or take an all-expenses paid two-day junket to Luxor to clear space for the delegates.

Mr Guttridge strolled up at one of a stream of private jets carrying leaders including Presidents Yeltsin and Chirac, John Major and Kings Hussein of Jordan and Hassan of Morocco, to the small desert airport.

"Whatever they tell us at the end, we all know this is a

glorified public relations exercise," he added. The Egyptians erected large notices proclaiming the meeting in the converted restaurant of the Swiss-managed Movenpick Beach Hotel as "The Summit of the Peacemakers".

They were anxious after criticism in the Arab world that the hastily-convened summit had been primarily staged for the benefit of Israel after its battering at the hands of Iranian-inspired Islamic suicide bombers.

As hundreds of Egyptian labourers hurried to finish preparations, a number of

Foreigners write letter of protest

Jerusalem: More than 50 foreigners, including Britons, have written to Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, protesting that they cannot leave the Gaza Strip because of the closure of the area after the recent suicide bombings (Russ Dunn writes).

unfortunate mistakes were ironed out, including one misspelling over the conference table not far from where Mr Yeltsin was due to be seated. It described the meeting as "the summit of the pacemakers".

To myself and other correspondents who had earlier driven past the sites of the two recent Jerusalem bus bombings, it was hard to reconcile the reality of the Hamas war against the Jews with the boughainvillea-clad walls of the conference hotel; or the main meeting room with the notice outside advertising "Snoopy Club" games for under-10s.

That's why you've got to buy an

Iomega Ditto Easy 800 drive. It's a cool

little red drive that works like insurance

for all the stuff on your PC. Applications,

files, work, games,

everything.

Iomega's One Step

software means you just point and click

and the Ditto goes to work backing up

your entire hard drive. And while it's

working, you can continue to work.

Naturally, installation has been

made super simple.

5 minutes is all it takes. All of

which has made Iomega one of the

fastest-growing data storage

companies in the world.

£152

So if you don't want to

lose all the important stuff

on your PC, you can't afford not to get

an Iomega Ditto drive. Available in both

800MB or 3.2GB models.

See your computer dealer today.

Because, as you very well know, accidents

can happen.



BECAUSE IT'S YOUR STUFF:

<http://www.iomega.com>

©1996 Iomega Corporation. All trademarks are the property of Iomega Corporation. Price listed are recommended retail prices. Actual prices may vary.

You've got insurance
if Johnny crashes your car.
But what if he
crashes your hard drive?

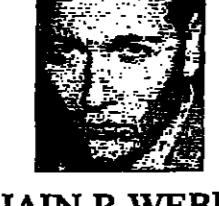


Lean looks from Italian catwalks

MILAN

Military chic
with a
furry edge

*Fashion
journalist of
the year*



IAIN R. WEBB

Question: why do Prada girls wear their trousers extra long? Answer: because their shoes are so ugly.

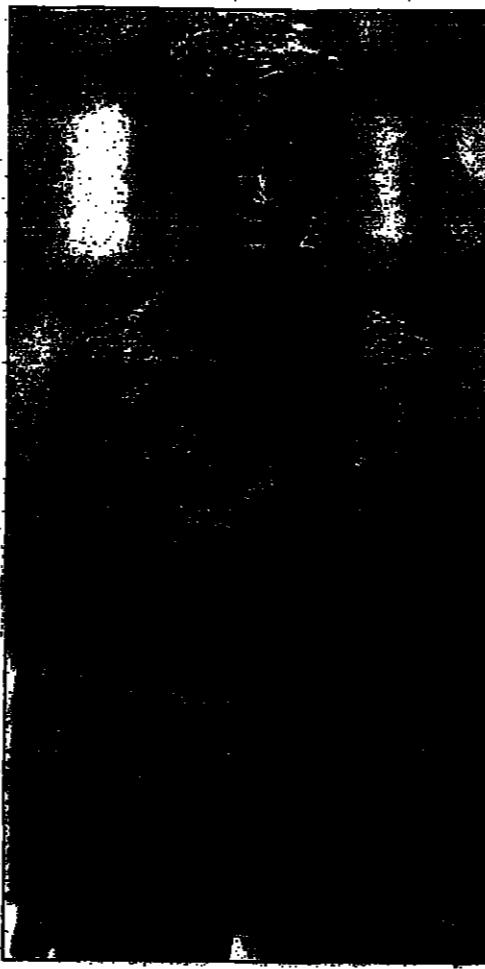
Try to imagine a pair of chunky, high-heeled, ankle-strap, peep-toe leather shoes appliquéd with folky flowers (also in leather). They were probably once brown before they were left to knock around in the bargain bin at your local Oxfam shop. Scuffed and sad looking, these are the shoes nobody wanted until Miuccia Prada put them on the catwalk to accessorise her autumn/winter 1996/97 collection at Milan Fashion Week last week.

If you thought the "ironic" square toe and heel slingsbacks on offer for summer were bad, you are in for a shock come winter. Forget Princess Margaret as a style icon; even the Princess Royal wouldn't touch these. Long, ultrathin trousers, cut with a slight flare to accommodate these unsightly accessories, skinned the catwalk with predictable regularity. Every designer featured them. Where Prada cut hers in wallpaper-print fabric, Gucci chose pinstripe suiting. Where Versace used black leather, Dolce & Gabbana favoured animal print or plaid. The overriding silhouette was slender from top-to-toe, just like the girl in those 1970s Virginia Slims cigarette advertisements who told women the world over "You've come a long way, baby".

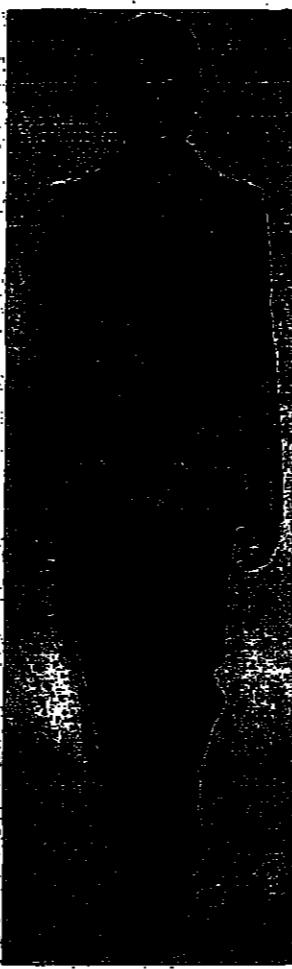
Tom Ford has certainly come a long way since he took over as designer of the Gucci line three seasons ago. Ford has turned the elegant house of Gucci into a label once more coveted by fashion fans. The buzz surrounding his show this season was awesome, yet Ford managed to surpass all expectations. He dropped the trendy ticket to deliver smart chic which continued to utilise his trademark skinny shirt (now cut in pristine white cotton



DOLCE & GABBANA: fierce



MISSONI: pattern puts fashion in a spin



PRADA: sofie chic



GUCCI: fur was a dominant theme trimming collars



JIL SANDER: real life just a catwalk away



GUCCI: the long, cool looks of the Virginia Slims girl — luxury for the Studio 54 generation

or sophisticated navy silk). The collection provided all the key looks: those cigarette-thin trousers, maxi coats and midi jackets, fur (as trim for collars, or cut into full-length coats), pin-stripe suiting, navy blue and chocolate brown (all cut into sleek trouser suits, midi skirts (sometimes reaching the ankle), leather and ponykin, sculptural white jersey evening dresses (a steal from another Seventies star, the American designer Halston), and epaulettes and flap-pockets).

Milan was practically under siege from the military look. Everywhere you looked there were epaulettes (trimming jackets, coats and even shirts at MaxMara, Emporio Armani, Iceberg, Moschino and Prada). Grey flannel, brown tweed and navy gabardine added to the uniform effect. Gianni Versace continued his glamorous manoeuvres by cutting belted GI jackets in khaki satin for his cheaper priced Istante line, while his eponymous collection featured brightly coloured party frocks with pleat pockets coyly covering what the sheer chiffon revealed.

Bosoms were pushed upward to the heavens at Dolce & Gabbana as the design duo Domenico and Stefano celebrated ten years in the business. Their collection stole from their own back catalogue: swingy opera coats, androgynous tweed trouser suits, pencil skirts and scantly draped chiffon evening dresses in animal and floral prints. For coats and jackets were a dominant theme. From Marni's luxurious minimalism to shiny black fakes at SportMax and Callaghan, cropped bombers at Emporio Armani, cut into a coat, a stole and a midi skirt at Gianfranco Ferré, or a poncho at Moschino.

A wonderful striped knitted poncho appeared on the catwalk of Missoni who emerged as the week's new star. Even though the husband and wife team have been 42 years in the business, their multi-coloured stripes, checks and zig-zag computer knits are perfectly in tune with fashion's fascination with pattern. Best were double-breasted jackets and tunics in the colours of autumn leaves: rust, toffee, and chocolate brown.

There were times at the Prada show when I asked the person next to me to prick me with a pin so I'd know I wasn't dreaming. The Prada look has



Changing colours: subdued glamour from ISTANTE and ARMANI's shock of pink

already have a word for pretentious, they do now: Prada.

Two designers who appear to be unaffected by the whims of the trendy are the megastars Gianni Versace and Giorgio Armani. Both continue to please their faithful fans. Each has made his name by creating a very definite image for a specific clientele: Versace likes it loud where Armani prefers a quiet life. Yet this season the pair appear to be influenced by each other — among the bright and tight dresses and suits of Versace were sudden glimpses of disquieting understatement (namely three plain black dresses), while Armani's seemingly endless selection of exquisitely non-coloured streamlined designs finished with an unlikely finale — a shock of pink and gorgeously ornate beaded outfits. Watch this space.

If any show in Milan was worth watching again it was that of German Jil Sander. Sander is a woman with a mission to rid wardrobes of the unnecessary and ensure getting dressed in the morning is as easy as ABC.

A grey flannel slimline shirt over a matching knee-length skirt encapsulated the look, while a cream single-breasted suit (yes, Sander is a realist as well as a minimalist) provided a serious option for working women. School sweaters and crisp white shirts, a double-face wool coat in camel and grey worn with grey trousers and polo neck, or a navy shirt worn with matching trousers were all winners.

On my way back to London I spied Kate Moss at Linate airport checking in for her flight to Paris (next stop on the collections fashion go-round). She was wearing one of the just-below-the-knee grey jersey dresses Sander had shown earlier that day. In the blink of an eye it had walked off the catwalk and into the real world. It looked really great.

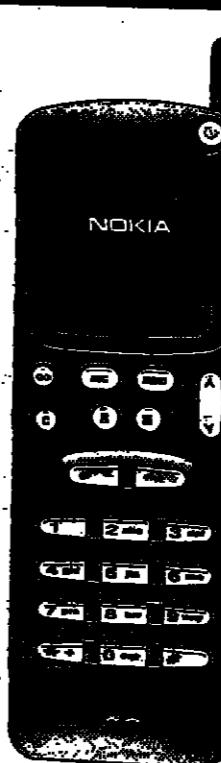
Now free calls and one second billing.

LIMITED OFFER
£9.99
INC. VAT

NOKIA

GSM MODEL 2010.

- ◆ 99 name/number memory
- ◆ 200 min talk-time*
- ◆ 60 hrs standby-time*
- ◆ Complete with standard battery and rapid travel charger
- ◆ Weight approx. 320g



- FREE AIRTIME - 150 minutes until 31st May 1996
- ONE SECOND BILLING - you only pay for the air time you use
- FREE ACCESSORIES worth over £75
- DIGITAL call clarity and security
- BEST COVERAGE of the UK, most of Europe and beyond on the Vodafone GSM network

VODAFONE PERSONAL WORLD

Connection: £25.25 (23p + VAT)

Monthly Rent: £177.50 (21p + VAT)

Peak Call: 33.25p per min (20p + VAT)

Off Peak Call: 11.25p per min (10p + VAT)

PowerWise peak rates are 7.50p (5.50p + VAT) for 10 mins or less, 5.50p (4.50p + VAT) for 10-20 mins, 4.50p (3.50p + VAT) for 20-30 mins, 3.50p (2.50p + VAT) for 30-40 mins, 2.50p (1.50p + VAT) for 40-50 mins, 1.50p (1.00p + VAT) for 50-60 mins, 1.00p (0.50p + VAT) for 60-70 mins, 0.50p (0.25p + VAT) for 70-80 mins, 0.25p (0.10p + VAT) for 80-90 mins, 0.10p (0.05p + VAT) for 90-100 mins, 0.05p (0.025p + VAT) for 100-110 mins, 0.025p (0.0125p + VAT) for 110-120 mins, 0.0125p (0.00625p + VAT) for 120-130 mins, 0.00625p (0.003125p + VAT) for 130-140 mins, 0.003125p (0.0015625p + VAT) for 140-150 mins, 0.0015625p (0.00078125p + VAT) for 150-160 mins, 0.00078125p (0.000390625p + VAT) for 160-170 mins, 0.000390625p (0.0001953125p + VAT) for 170-180 mins, 0.0001953125p (0.00009765625p + VAT) for 180-190 mins, 0.00009765625p (0.000048828125p + VAT) for 190-200 mins, 0.000048828125p (0.0000244140625p + VAT) for 200-210 mins, 0.0000244140625p (0.00001220703125p + VAT) for 210-220 mins, 0.00001220703125p (0.000006103515625p + VAT) for 220-230 mins, 0.000006103515625p (0.0000030517578125p + VAT) for 230-240 mins, 0.0000030517578125p (0.00000152587890625p + VAT) for 240-250 mins, 0.00000152587890625p (0.000000762939453125p + VAT) for 250-260 mins, 0.000000762939453125p (0.0000003814697265625p + VAT) for 260-270 mins, 0.0000003814697265625p (0.00000019073486328125p + VAT) for 270-280 mins, 0.00000019073486328125p (0.000000095367431640625p + VAT) for 280-290 mins, 0.000000095367431640625p (0.0000000476837158203125p + VAT) for 290-300 mins, 0.0000000476837158203125p (0.00000002384185791015625p + VAT) for 300-310 mins, 0.00000002384185791015625p (0.000000012200928955078125p + VAT) for 310-320 mins, 0.000000012200928955078125p (0.0000000061004644775390625p + VAT) for 320-330 mins, 0.0000000061004644775390625p (0.00000000305023223876953125p + VAT) for 330-340 mins, 0.00000000305023223876953125p (0.000000001525116119384765625p + VAT) for 340-350 mins, 0.000000001525116119384765625p (0.0000000007625580596923828125p + VAT) for 350-360 mins, 0.0000000007625580596923828125p (0.00000000038127902984619140625p + VAT) for 360-370 mins, 0.00000000038127902984619140625p (0.000000000190639514923095703125p + VAT) for 370-380 mins, 0.000000000190639514923095703125p (0.0000000000953197574615478515625p + VAT) for 380-390 mins, 0.0000000000953197574615478515625p (0.00000000004765987873077392578125p + VAT) for 390-400 mins, 0.00000000004765987873077392578125p (0.000000000023829939365386962890625p + VAT) for 400-410 mins, 0.000000000023829939365386962890625p (0.0000000000122149696826934814453125p + VAT) for 410-420 mins, 0.0000000000122149696826934814453125p (0.00000000000610748484133474072265625p + VAT) for 420-430 mins, 0.00000000000610748484133474072265625p (0.000000000003053742420667370363125p + VAT) for 430-440 mins, 0.000000000003053742420667370363125p (0.0000000000015278712103336851815625p + VAT) for 440-450 mins, 0.0000000000015278712103336851815625p (0.000000000007639356051667425903125p + VAT) for 450-460 mins, 0.000000000007639356051667425903125p (0.0000000000038196780258337129515625p + VAT) for 460-470 mins, 0.0000000000038196780258337129515625p (0.00000000000190983901291685647578125p + VAT) for 470-480 mins, 0.00000000000190983901291685647578125p (0.000000000000954919506458428237890625p + VAT) for 480-490 mins, 0.000000000000954919506458428237890625p (0.00000000000047745975322921411890625p + VAT) for 490-500 mins, 0.00000000000047745975322921411890625p (0.000000000000238729876614607059453125p + VAT) for 500-510 mins, 0.000000000000238729876614607059453125p (0.0000000000001223649383073035297265625p + VAT) for 510-520 mins, 0.0000000000001223649383073035297265625p (0.000000000000061182469153651764865625p + VAT) for 520-530 mins, 0.000000000000061182469153651764865625p (0.00000000000003059123457682588243125p + VAT) for 530-540 mins, 0.00000000000003059123457682588243125p (0.000000000000015295617288412941215625p + VAT) for 540-550 mins, 0.000000000000015295617288412941215625p (0.0000000000000076478086442064706078125p + VAT) for 550-560 mins, 0.0000000000000076478086442064706078125p (0.0000000000000038239043221032353035625p + VAT) for 560-570 mins, 0.0000000000000038239043221032353035625p (0.00000000000000191195216105161765178125p + VAT) for 570-580 mins, 0.00000000000000191195216105161765178125p (0.000000000000000955976080525808825890625p + VAT) for 580-590 mins, 0.000000000000000955976080525808825890625p (0.0000000000000004779880402629044129453125p + VAT) for 590-600 mins, 0.0000000000000004779880402629044129453125p (0.00000000000000023899402013145220647265625p + VAT) for 600-610 mins, 0.00000000000000023899402013145220647265625p (0.00000000000000012249701006572611323890625p + VAT) for 610-620 mins, 0.00000000000000012249701006572611323890625p (0.00000000000000006124850503285105611890625p + VAT) for 620-630 mins, 0.00000000000000006124850503285105611890625p (0.00000000000000003062425251642552805453125p + VAT) for 630-640 mins, 0.00000000000000003062425251642552805453125p (0.000000000000000015312126258212764027265625p + VAT) for 640-650 mins, 0.000000000000000015312126258212764027265625p (0.000000000000000007656063129106382013612

Alan Coren



■ I trust my heirs will be careful with my life and letters

Just to the left of where I sit tapping this out, there is a sturdy shelf with my life on it. It has to be sturdy, because my life is contained in ten big box files each containing, give or take, a thousand pages. These are my letters, and what, of course, concerns me today is the kind of man my son might be playing tennis with after I am dead.

It concerns me because Martin Amis plays tennis with Zachary Leader, a Roehampton academic, and it is to Mr Leader that Martin has entrusted the editorship of his father Kingsley's letters, thereby upsetting Eric Jacobs, Kingsley's drinking companion, who had been led to believe that he was going to be doing the editing. The snag is that he had been led to believe that by Kingsley, who, not being an executor of his estate, was in no position to lead anyone to believe anything, a situation enabling Martin, who is an executor, to prefer his chum to his father's.

Now, it is clearly important who edits posthumous letters, since the selection will determine our perception of the man who wrote them, and dipping into the big box files, I see that this is far more clearly important in my case than in Kingsley's. For while his letters were sent to top literary bananas like Anthony Powell and Philip Larkin and Evelyn Waugh and — packed with the sort of stuff one expects when like speaks to like and known speaks to known — will doubtless present a consistency of style, attitude, taste, and above all personality, mine do not present anything of the kind. That is because mine were not written to anybody I know. I never write personal letters. When something personal is called for, I call for it: I pick up a phone. What the big box files contain, therefore, is impersonal stuff that could be expressed only in writing. It is exclusively commercial. That is why I kept copies.

It is also why its editing is so terribly important. Because, on dipping into it, I find that I consist of umpteen different people. Take the long and riveting 1973 correspondence with Granada TV. Rental about their inability to sort out a screen inhabited solely by blue flat-headed midgets: this fine epistolary sequence begins in ironic bewilderment, moves on to anger, becomes incensed, then grows chilling with threat, the work of an influential and well-connected bastard whose editors beg for consumer scams, whose lawyers yearn for easy briefs, whose close friends on the Granada Board are coming to dinner that very night.

Now set this against the famous 1977 exchange with Lex Volvo over the fact that, despite six visits to their body shop, the tailgate of my estate still flies open on a whim: this shows a very different man, more hurt than angry, caringly distraught, fearful that, at sudden braking, his children will end up whirling in the welkin above the M1 like Tiepolo cherubs, a decent, gentle man unable to believe that his love of Sweden and his deep admiration, as a lifelong socialist, of its reputation for humanitarian concern could so unthinkingly be put at irreparable risk.

Yet how different both these writers seem to be from the wheedling supplicant of the brilliantly inventive Overraft Letters (1968-85, *passim*), in which a figure emerges of not only great humility but also extraordinary financial probity and wisdom — one who would, I fear, be unrecognisable to the same period's Inland Revenue recipients, confronted by a fiscally incompetent bohemian unable to understand the first thing about where money comes from or where it goes, and thus constitutionally unable to keep accurate records, whatever those are.

And can either of these be the man whose passionate correspondence with Barner council down the long arches of the years addresses everything from wonky pavements and duff binmen to underfunded libraries and sandpit dogs' doings? True, that man is also variously angry, caring, threatening, humble, wise, influential, and the rest, but above all he is — it goes through every sentence — a political idealist pledged to that right to vote which put Barner council where it is today. The problem for those reading his letters is how to reconcile the lifelong Conservative this makes him with the lifelong socialist who finally persuaded Volvo to fit a new tailgate. Which is why, when I am mortally uncoloured, I need a smart editor. Not just anyone for tennis.

Mainland targets island nation in manoeuvres...



All bad Europeans now

The White Paper shows that with Brussels in full retreat, scepticism is now ascendant

Next year the Brussels Commission should raise a trembling glass on the 900th anniversary of the rise to power of Pope Innocent III. Scourge of the Cathars, patron of the Inquisition, instigator of the Fourth Crusade and bully of the German princelets, Innocent was the first true European. He claimed the right to approve local monarchs. He levied Euro-taxes, and banned trial by ordeal in favour of high-tech torture. His writ ran to every parish in Christendom. Such was his secular authority that King John appealed to him to annul the Magna Carta.

Innocent III would regard Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, as a wimp. Where are Santer's pennants on the turrets of Sarajevo? Where is his veto on the Queen's civil list? Who needs a Euro-ducat? Didn't the Fourth Lateran declare subsidiarity a heresy? This Luxembourg mouse should burn the sceptics at the stake.

Euro-machismo is now in full retreat. Ten years ago no diplomat would have dared to write yesterday's White Paper. Whole passages seem to have been lifted from Lady Thatcher's Bruges speech. A British Europe, says the new Toryism, is "a union of nations co-operating freely under treaties freely entered into". It "respects cultural and political diversity... concentrates single-mindedly only on what needs to be done at a European level... does not interfere where it is not needed and is outward-looking, free-trading, democratic and flexible".

The White Paper is a paragon of self-interest. It insists that common decision-making "can only be justified where it brings benefits to British security, prosperity and quality of life which are so significant that they justify some loss of unfettered national control in the area concerned". Supranational action is valid only where action in defence of trade is not open to states individually. This might be the language of the Single European Act; it is not the spirit of Maastricht.

Time was when such thoughts were heretical. Governments might come and go, but union through federation was the one true faith. Opposition from Lady Thatcher, Danish sceptics or French chauvinists was mere diversion. A united states of Europe was the natural extension of a free-trade area, then of political union, then of history itself. After centuries of

turmoil, Europe's postwar patriarchs had found the philosopher's stone. I imagine there are still people who believe this, though most of them are paid to do so. On Monday Mr Santer tried gamely to win for his Commissioners the power to subsidise anything they liked under the guise of "alleviating unemployment". A robust Council of Ministers said no. Mr Santer reportedly went off in a huff. Maastricht sceptics sought shelter behind Mr Major's skirts at ministerial meetings, hoping Britain would always take the blame for stopping the wilder Eurocratic lunacies. With the impending collapse of monetary union, sceptics across the Continent are coming into the open. Anti-Europeanism featured in recent German, French and Spanish elections.

The British electorate used to greet any emanations from Brussels or the Council of Ministers as a necessary evil. Polls showed a public accepting European free trade and its political disciplines as sound and progressive. The British would not withdraw from European institutions or renounce the treaties. On the other hand, they appeared to reject what is termed the Maastricht process, of wider powers for Brussels and its puppet European Parliament and of extended majority voting by the Council of Ministers.

The British, in other words, did not want to be thought bad sports. They wanted to be part of the game. But they disliked the hijacking of the liberal ideals of the old Common Market by Franco-German corporatism. They detested the morass of subsidy, corruption and intervention, not least when other states were less fastidious about the rule of administrative law. Nothing has done the European cause more damage than Brussels' double standard towards Britain in the enforcement of regulations — unless it is yesterday's cynical court ruling on the "health and safety" edict on working hours.

British governments must thus sustain a delicate equilibrium. They must

be recalcitrant and bloody-minded. They must block and protest and howl with pain, especially over anything to do with fish. They may demand police action to get British lamb to French markets, but they must pass protectionist laws such as the 1988 Merchant Shipping Act aimed at excluding Spanish trawlers (which the European Court of Justice was surely right to outlaw). But eventually they must sign.

Wilson signed. Thatcher signed. Major signed. In opposition, these leaders were all sceptics, but in power they signed. They saw that whatever took place in the theatre of European politics

was part of a worthwhile endeavour, re-fashioning the security of post-war Europe. This endeavour is not yet complete. However much Britain's leaders might believe that "outside Europe" Britain could not only survive but prosper, withdrawal was a gamble neither they nor the electorate were ready to take. The offshore island gave hurt. If the British withdrew and, for whatever reason, Europe fell once more to Franco-Britain, Europe could never look history in the face.

The institutions of the old Common Market — like an ailing magazine, constantly renamed and relaunched — have arrived at a familiar turning-point in the evolution of empires. They must either move on to autocracy and eventual collapse, or they must swiftly dismantle into their subsidiary components. Witness to the former are the Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman and Soviet empires. In each case the prime motive of autocracy was bureaucratic rather than imperial. Witness to the latter is the British Empire. Its supranationalism is now represented by no more than the Queen as head of the Commonwealth.

The European movement in the 1980s toyed with going down the Austro-Hungarian path. Under the spiritual leadership of Jacques Delors it recklessly

lavished with federal imperialism. The moment has passed. A legacy of the Allied victory in 1945 was the democratic vigour of Europe's nation-states, a vigour reinforced by the fall of the Soviet Union. M Delors failed to crush the identity of member states. Under his influence to adapt Gibbon, the European Commission passed from expansionism to decay without even the briefest moment of sovereign exhilaration.

It now seems incredible that democratic freedoms won against Hitler and the Soviet Union would ever be sacrificed to the grim commissioners of Brussels. The Council of Ministers, not the Commission, was bound sooner or later to become the focus of Europe's power-brokers. Yet such distrust has developed towards even the Council that each country has insisted on that vote of no confidence in representational democracy, a "referendum on Europe". Britain is one of the last to do so. There are sound arguments against plebiscitary government. There are few against consultative referendums. How a manifestly sceptical Tory party has allowed itself to be outflanked on this by Sir James Goldsmith is a mystery — a mystery wrapped in the enigma of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

No subject in modern times has caused British governments more tribulation than Europe. The reason is the distorting polarisation of British politics. This has decreed that there must be a row. Europe must be said "to tear the country apart" or "split the Tory party". There must be screaming and name-calling, "bastards" and "men in white coats". There must be Little Englanders and Sayers of Sovereignty Down the River. Europe devastated the last years of the Thatcher administration, for reasons now hard to recall. It has done the same for Mr Major.

The essence of the row remains elusive. Few politicians want to leave the European Union, just as few want to cede more power to Brussels or the Council of Ministers. The number of paid-up Euro-fanatics and Euro-withdrawals on both back benches can be numbered on two hands. Nothing here really divides Mr Major and Tony Blair. As for the electorate, it places Europe far down the list of crucial issues. It is bored by Europe. Like the Government in this White Paper, the British public is emotionally and politically sceptical, but not very. All Mr Major need do is behave like a bad European, but do it well.

Divorced from his own party

Ralph Harris on how Lord Mackay fell among activists

Why has Lord Mackay of Clashfern allowed his name to be so uniquely linked with the Family Law Bill, which many loyal Tory supporters see as further weakening the defences against the rising tide of divorce? The Bill, which passed the Commons last Monday against the votes of some 60 Conservative peers, goes to the Lords next month mutilated by a Lords amendment on pension-splitting, and with Tory backbenchers threatening to join the rebels in the Lords.

Even such a non-political Lord Chancellor must feel a twinge of regret that he had to rely on Labour and Liberal Democrat votes to fight off Lady Young's amendment to extend the cooling-off period from 12 to 18 months. She is supported by such heavyweights as Lord Simon of Glaisdale (a former President of the Divorce Division of the High Court), the Anglican Archbishop of York and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster. No one questions his probity. But does he have no doubts behind that dour mask of inflexibility?

After much pondering, I have decided Lord Mackay is a good, if stubborn man, fallen among legal activists. Why have we got this Bill now? There was little public demand for it. There was certainly no political case for courting fresh Tory divisions with a Bill that can be fairly summarised as "divorce on demand after a year". No, its inspiration came from the mysterious processes of a little-known body: the Law Commission.

Its main author appears to have been commissioner Brenda Hoggart, famous for saying, in 1980: "We have already reached a point at which we should be considering whether the legal institution of marriage continues to serve any useful purpose." A dozen years later, she bore witness to her intellectual confusion by first terminating a 24-year marriage and then solemnly contracting another before becoming a High Court Judge — under her maiden name as the Hon Mrs Justice Hale — in the family law division.

No one doubts that Lord Mackay's protestations of personal belief in marriage come from the heart. It is not his heart that critics doubt, any more than his ready grasp of legal technicalities. What is in question is the reasoning he shares with many bishops and other elevated personages concerning common sentiment and psychology, which will judge this Bill soft or those we must no longer call the "guilty" party. Of course, divorce may still be painful. But extensive research confirms that it is the offspring of broken marriages who stand to suffer most — in above average ill-health, retarded education, unemployment, delinquency and homelessness.

As the Lord Chancellor repeatedly intones, legislation cannot make couples stay together. But a key role of public law is surely to proclaim acceptable standards of conduct, whether in honesty, fair dealing, tolerance or — dare I say? — fidelity. If the law is to punish wrong-doing, does it not have to specify, or at least imply, what is regarded as right conduct?

Yet by extinguishing all reference to matrimonial "fault", does not the trumpet give forth an uncertain sound? Once this Bill is law, adultery or desertion will no longer be grounds for a divorce petition. Instead, the sole justification for abandoning the most solemn of all vows is a statement that the marriage has "irretrievably" broken down. Upon such a subjective view by one party, unsupported by solid reason or evidence, the wedding contract can be torn up, and a year later the wife or husband put away.

The only gleam of hope among the dismal statistics of soaring divorce rates is the evidence that both here and in America around 50 per cent of ex-husbands and 25 per cent of ex-wives later regret their divorces. This suggests that "irretrievable breakdown" may often prove to have been no more than the question-begging parrot-cry of temporarily disaffected spouses. What does the general public think about divorce on demand by one party without the need to give a reason? When the poll commissioned by the Lord Chancellor put that precise question, 60 per cent of the public singled it out as the least acceptable of nine possible options. Presented with the same list and asked which options were most acceptable as grounds for divorce, 59 per cent chose adultery, intolerable behaviour or two years' separation — the very three "grounds" in the present law which are to be wiped from the statute book.

If only the Lord Chancellor had faced the disenchantment of Ruth Deech (now Principal of St Anne's College, Oxford) who was at the Law Commission when the Divorce Act of 1969 was being dreamt up. Almost 30 years later, she wrote: "It is now clear that the work of the reformers in the 1960s was flawed. Their reliance on selected statistics and the works of social science led to wholly inaccurate predictions about the effects of the Divorce Reform Act 1969."

The truth is that since the legal activists voiced their subversive doubts about the "legal institution of marriage", the many chickens of their earlier handiwork have come home to roost. In the Lords' debates, leaving aside what I might call the gay divorce lobby, defenders of Lord Mackay's Bill join in regretting family break-up and go on to say, like the former Archbishop of York, Lord Habgood, that divorce is caused by economic, social and cultural pressures. But so is much of the youth crime that haunts us. Is it not defeatist, above all for a Lord Chancellor, to conclude that law is powerless to do much about it?

Drink up

THE DRINK has caught up with Melvyn Bragg. I spotted him tooting the other day in a West End restaurant despite a solemn pledge not to touch a drop for the first three months of the year. He blames Albert Finney.

After a seriously liquid lunch before Christmas, Bragg and his lunching chum Matthew Evans, the chairman of Faber, agreed that they should forge alcohol for the whole of January, February and March. Everything went swim-

mingly at first, with both Bragg and Evans wearing the impossibly sanctimonious air of tee-totalers. Then, says Bragg, he started making a South Bank Show about Albert Finney.

As part of the programme, we wanted to film Finney having lunch," says Bragg, "but he said there wasn't any point unless I took part of a few glasses of wine. So reluctantly I agreed to start drinking again for the sake of work. I fell at the Finney fence," he gasps.

Despite his sobriety, Bragg is indulging in a sort of victory dance, and piously plans to stay the course until April 4. "By then I shall be ready to make up for lost time," he gasps.

• Government legislation on the management of deer in the Highlands has upset some of the Lords. One peer asked to speak on the Deer Bill refused, stating that he did not deem Sir Denis Thatcher's personal correspondence a matter for public discussion.

For courses

YOU'D IMAGINE he would have outgrown food-fights, but Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber had been lobbing custard pies in the run-up to Cheltenham, the National Hunt Festival which came under starters orders yesterday.

WITH ALL the fracas at Balliol College, Oxford, over a university chair funded by Gerr-Rudolph Flick, the grandson of a convicted Nazi war criminal, the authorities have been quick to crack down over another unseemly incident involving the college.

It has banned the Annandale Society, an all-male Balliol drinking club, from convening after its members emptied the contents of a skip into the gardens of Trinity, the neighbouring college.

The feud between the two colleges goes back a long way. Trinity once released a pig into Balliol hall; Balliol, in return, projected the words "Bloody Trinity" on to

the college tower. But I understand that the Dean of Balliol found the skip a step too far, although a Balliol girl I spoke to was full of fight: "It's still war," she muttered darkly.

His target was the racecourse carter, Letheby & Christopher, an outfit which recently produced a lunch that he described in a newspaper as a "horror", with roast potatoes that were the nastiest thing he remembers eating.

Letheby's chief executive Tony Roestenburg is "saddened" by the continuing criticism, and has invited the composer to join him at Ascot where he provides the same potatoes. Not on your life, replied Lloyd Webber. "If I asked every critic who'd written a bad review of one of my shows to meet me, I'd never have the time to go racing."

British governments must thus sustain a delicate equilibrium. They must

as his occupation on his car insurance form. As luck would have it, an insurance rep had seen him singing on television the night before — and changed it to pop star.

Yesterday a spokesman for Cocker said that the singer was unavailable, so she could not vouch for the tale's veracity. "But it's the sort of thing he would do."

Impish JARVIS COCKER, the androgynous crooner who popped up uninvited on stage with Michael Jackson, has been up to further wheezes. The talk of his circle yesterday was that the amusing lead singer of Pulp, proud owner of a Hillman Imp, entered "telesales"

College spats

WITH ALL the fracas at Balliol College, Oxford, over a university chair funded by Gerr-Rudolph Flick, the grandson of a convicted Nazi war criminal, the authorities have been quick to crack down over another unseemly incident involving the college.

It has banned the Annandale Society, an all-male Balliol drinking club, from convening after its members emptied the contents of a skip into the gardens of Trinity, the neighbouring college.

The feud between the two colleges goes back a long way. Trinity once released a pig into Balliol hall; Balliol, in return, projected the words "Bloody Trinity" on to

the college tower. But I understand that the Dean of Balliol found the skip a step too far, although a Balliol girl I spoke to was full of fight: "It's still war," she muttered darkly.

His target was the racecourse carter, Letheby & Christopher, an outfit which recently produced a lunch that he described in a newspaper as a "horror", with roast potatoes that were the nastiest thing he remembers eating.

Letheby's chief executive Tony Roestenburg is "saddened" by the continuing criticism, and has invited the composer to join him at Ascot where he provides the same potatoes. Not on your life, replied Lloyd Webber. "If I asked every critic who'd written a bad review of one of my shows to meet me, I'd never have the time to go racing."

British governments must thus sustain a delicate equilibrium. They must

as his occupation on his car insurance form. As luck would have it, an insurance rep had seen him singing on television the night before — and changed it to pop star.

Yesterday a spokesman for Cocker said that the singer was unavailable, so she could not vouch for the tale's veracity. "But it's the sort of thing he would do."

Impish JARVIS COCKER, the androgynous crooner who popped up uninvited on stage with Michael Jackson, has been up to further wheezes. The talk of his circle yesterday was that the amusing lead singer of Pulp, proud owner of a Hillman Imp, entered "telesales"

College spats

WITH ALL the fracas at Balliol College, Oxford, over a university chair funded by Gerr-Rudolph Flick, the grandson of a convicted Nazi war criminal, the authorities have been quick to crack down over another unseemly incident involving the college.

It has banned the Annandale Society, an all-male Balliol drinking club, from convening after its members emptied the contents of a skip into the gardens of Trinity, the neighbouring college.

The feud between the two colleges goes back a long way. Trinity once released a pig into Balliol hall; Balliol, in return, projected the words "Bloody Trinity" on to

the college tower. But I understand that the Dean of Balliol found the skip a step too far, although a Balliol girl I spoke to was full of fight: "It's still war," she muttered darkly.

His target was the racecourse carter, Letheby & Christopher, an outfit which recently produced a lunch that he described in a newspaper as a "horror", with roast potatoes that were the nastiest thing he remembers eating.

Letheby's chief executive Tony Roestenburg is "saddened" by the continuing criticism, and has invited the composer to join him at Ascot where he provides the same potatoes.



RIFKIND'S EUROPE

A quiet reception for a quiet strengthening of policy

Yesterday's publication of a White Paper on the EU's renegotiation of the Maastricht Treaty is a symptom of wider change which has reshaped European politics during the past few years. Questions of European integration are no longer the preserve of a few: to negotiate effectively inside the EU, ministers must be backed by voters' trust. At the risk of reducing their room for manoeuvre, governments must say where they stand. Malcolm Rifkind's White Paper, which bears strongly the marks of his personal authorship, will not satisfy every Conservative critic or speedily convert Continental capitals to the British viewpoint or save the Government from dark days in the Commons. But it contains a clear-principled guide to the overlapping EU negotiations of the next decade.

Although the White Paper concentrates on the inter-governmental conference which opens in Turin at the end of this month, that event will be quickly followed by negotiations both to admit members from East and Central Europe and to prepare the internal financial reforms which will heal post-war divisions. No more than two years from now we will know whether a monetary union begins in 1999 and if it does, which states will join. During the closing years of the century, Europe's military alliances will be reformed by talks to expand Nato to the east.

Of all these decisions, the IGC's largely procedural questions are perhaps the least important. The political changes which would be wrought by the creation of a single currency would dwarf the reforms to be debated in the IGC. The Government's White Paper does not guarantee that British ambitions will succeed. But it does contain clear philosophy, plain benchmarks and categorical commitments useful well beyond the confines of the IGC.

The core of the document amounts to the redirection of the European project as it has been understood for the past four decades. Europe's problems of economic uncompetitiveness and unease about the Maastricht

Treaty cannot be solved by "more Europe", as many politicians on the Continent suggest. Maastricht's aspiration to "ever closer union" of peoples must not mean a political union or a "United States" of Europe. National parliaments "remain the central focus of democratic legitimacy". These fundamentals can hardly be repeated too often.

The White Paper lists two kinds of negotiating aims: braking mechanisms to check further centralisation and proposals for reform of the EU machinery. There are weaknesses in detail. The Government has no advice on how realistic any of these aims may turn out to be inside the IGC. The list of desirable changes in the procedures of the European Court of Justice is sensible but the court's powers in the treaty have barely been touched since the Treaty of Rome was signed 40 years ago. The section on "flexibility" is too cautious. The Government rightly acknowledges that some EU members may want to integrate further or more quickly than others. But it has not shown that it clearly grasps this pivotal question.

This White Paper will not prevent the Government coming under great pressure in the negotiation to concede points which it has said will not be surrendered. The document can be read as a guide to the principal flashpoints of the IGC: qualified majority voting, the abstract question of the links between the EU and the Western European Union, the powers of the European Parliament and immigration. But the impression left by the brief exchange in the Commons yesterday afternoon was of a Labour Party broadly behind White Paper. Labour has signalled that its resistance to extending majority voting will not be as complete as the Government's; but Mr Cook had no quarrel with Mr Rifkind's negotiating brief based squarely on the legitimacy of the nation state. Whether Labour would be as robust in practice remains in serious doubt. But those among Britain's EU partners who are relying on an election to alter the balance of the IGC, should take note nonetheless.

A CAPITAL IDEA

Make London fit for millennial pedestrians

Walking in London is a battle not just against the elements, but against thundering buses, lethal motorcycles and pollution. Drivers may not appreciate the fact, but London is still in thrall to the motorcar. As Marcus Binney writes on our Arts pages today, it is time to reclaim the streets.

Let us not be romantic. London will never be like Naples, whose imaginative Mayor Antonio Bassolino, visiting Britain this week, has won international plaudits for closing parts of his city centre to the car. Nor can London compete with the boulevards of Barcelona. Britain's climate is too unforgiving for any attempt to create a Mediterranean city in northern Europe. But Britons are sturdy: given the slightest glimpse of sun, they will sit outside in their overcoats. Only rain and the bitterest cold make outdoor metropolitan life disappear altogether.

The architect Richard Rogers wants to pedestrianise much of Trafalgar and Parliament Squares and to construct cafés and restaurants to overlook the fountains. He would turn Northumberland Avenue into a Ramblas, with a street market down the middle. Other proposals include the pedestrianisation of much of Soho, Covent Garden and Bloomsbury.

The instinctive reaction is to deplore the congestion this would cause. The Naples scheme was deemed as impossible until the arrival of the G7 leaders for their summit in 1994 when it suddenly became necessary: the city never looked back. Many London

roads that are now one-way could be opened to two-way traffic. Thus, the north side of the Aldwych and the south side of Trafalgar Square could become two-way, enabling the other sides to be paved over. And people stop driving once traffic becomes intolerable.

The main challenge is to prevent the pedestrianised areas becoming scruffy haunts for tramps, drunken teenagers and pigeons, which has been the fate of the pedestrianised Leicester Square. This depends crucially upon local attractions. Leicester Square has amusement arcades, cinemas and cheap fast food. But Sauchiehall Street in Glasgow and South Molton Street in London are lined with shops and have become more salubrious since they banned cars. In St Christopher's Place, another pedestrianised West End shopping street, people sit outside in virtually all weathers, and shoppers stroll, free from the risk of being run over or poisoned. Yet in Oxford Street, where vehicles are still allowed, pedestrians are squeezed on to narrow pavements and have to jostle their way down the street.

If planners do not have the vision to pave over some of these roads, they may find pedestrians voting with their feet. Soho's Old Compton Street on a Saturday night has become a *de facto* pedestrian precinct. It is thronged with people and almost impossible to drive down. London should experiment: this would be a cheap and easy way for the capital to become a more civilised city in time for the millennium.

NEW REIGN IN SPAIN

José María Aznar must not be denied his Government

Spain is restless, and with good reason. José María Aznar and the conservative Popular Party, the winners by a sliver of the recent general elections, are scratching around with cap in hand for partners in government. Felipe González, whose Socialists lost deservedly ten days ago, now sports a cocky insolence quite unbecoming of a man who has lost the voters' confidence. The smaller parties are holding out for a greater stake in power than they should be worth in a mature democracy, and the country has its nervous fingers crossed to guard against another, premature election.

Señor Aznar has until the first week of April in which to cook together a majority in Congress. He is a full 20 seats short, compelling him to rely for survival — as his Socialist predecessor-to-be had done — on a *pacta* of regionalist parties. He deserves this support, as does Spain, and it should be only a matter of time before he secures it. The question, however, is this: at what price?

The *dramatis personae* are the usual cast of Catalan and Basque nationalists. And in the manner to which most of Spain has become weary accustomed, Jordi Pujol, the Catalan leader, is once more director of the country's administrative drama. Señor Pujol, whom there is no man in Spain more astute, is making the conservatives sweat profusely. Under the previous González Government, he acquired a taste for power in Madrid: far from having lost that taste, he will extract even more from a government of Señor Aznar.

To the external observer, there ought to be no insuperable obstacles to an alliance

between Señor Aznar and Señor Pujol. Both are "christian democrats": their views on the economy, the welfare state and the reform of Spain's labour laws ought to make them quite natural allies. The same applies to the Basque nationalists, who are primarily the representatives of their region's middle classes. Why, then, do they balk at an alliance, especially if a failure to work out a harmonious "conservative" political equation could return Señor González to power by the back door?

The answer lies in the misguided perception which the Catalan and Basque parties have of Señor Aznar's commitment to regional autonomy. Señor Pujol, in particular, is profoundly suspicious of an imagined right-wing Castilian conspiracy to undo all the freedom that two decades of post-Franco politics have given to Catalonia. Yet he is wrong: Señor Aznar has done everything within his power to assure Spanish citizens in the regions that the country's autonomous structures would be unaffected by a conservative government. He has, in addition, made explicit statements criticising Franco and his centralised vision of Spain.

Señor Pujol, whose contribution to Catalan self-esteem cannot be exaggerated, must now move with the times. For him to deny support to Señor Aznar, and to a reformist, conservative project for Spain, would be both irresponsible and unconscionable. The Popular Party has earned its moment in power, and Señor Aznar must be allowed his opportunity to demonstrate that the democratic Right will govern Spain better than the Socialists have done.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Call for new look at cost of Europe

From Mrs Christina Speight

Sir, The letter today from the European Movement includes the staggering assertion that the Single European Act has "brought huge economic benefit to Britain".

How the signatories can stand the facts on their head in this way beggars belief. In 1994 the current account balance with the EU as then constituted had a deficit of £6.49 billion with positive figures for Africa, Asia, Australasia and the Americas — the rest of the world in fact. On top of this deficit with the EU, the UK also contributes £7.3 billion gross to the EU itself as well as paying £16,000 per family for the extra costs of having to buy overpriced European food instead of dealing on world markets.

So far from the Single Market improving this situation, it is making it worse. Before Britain was put into the strait-jacket of the EU, this country was in balance with its European neighbours, and we had our own fish, provided all our own milk and grew what food suited us. The European Movement appears to back the continuing enslavement of this country to an unelected bureaucracy in Brussels.

Britain's prospects lie in the greater world outside the stagnating and fraudulent EU. The UK Independence Party has continually been urging this policy and furthermore backing its beliefs with incontrovertible facts. The European Movement would be wise to address these facts.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINA SPEIGHT,
20 Ramilles Road, W4.
March 11.

From Mrs Jane Singleton

Sir, Is a referendum on monetary union enough? Surely we need one on the whole concept of the EU. Oh, for somebody to disentangle us so that we can come out altogether!

Yours faithfully,
JANE SINGLETON,
Scotland Lodge,
Wimborne St. Peter,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.
March 8.

A name on a map

From Mr David Pollard

Sir, Mr Terry Donnelly (letter, March 7) asks for a new name for our "republic" after devolution and other eruptions have taken their toll. I fear we may instead be no more than a "region", in a somewhat undemocratic state called Eurosavia.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID POLLARD,
Folly Bridge Workshops,
Thames Street, Oxford.
March 6.

From Mr John Hunter

Sir, Lord Dacre (letter, March 7) recalls the dire years of our former republic (1649-60). Many features of that time when bigots interfered and legislated on all aspects of life are here again. For direct rule by major-generals read quangos boards and environmental inspectors; for puritans, read single-issue fanatics who foist their prejudice and rancour on us all and make it law. Like the 1640s, the 1990s is the decade of the sour face who knows what is best for our health, moral and mental.

Perhaps we will have a "restoration", a Cavalier Parliament and a ban on preachers in all their repellent guises.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HUNTER,
The Market Cross, Thaxted, Essex.

Teaching standards

From Mrs Douglas Heyman

Sir, Why is so much surprise expressed nowadays at poor and inadequate teaching in our schools? To those of us lucky enough to have acquired our education along traditional lines in good schools, it became clear a generation ago that something potentially dangerous was building up. We are sad, but not at all surprised.

It was always alarming to view the new, trendy, togetherness between teachers and the "taught", to see that the rows of desks, all focused on the teacher and the blackboard, had gone. Instead, children were all seated at small tables dotted about the room, as in a nursery school for tiny tots, with the odd visit from teacher to help with sums, perhaps, before moving on to the next little group for more cosy chat. Now these same pupils are the teachers and no wonder they find themselves, unused as they are to the well tried disciplines of the classroom, unable to cope.

In that sense perhaps, *The Boys from Brazil* and *Jurassic Park* are not entirely nonsensical.

Yours sincerely,
PATRICIA HEYMAN,
Mead House,
Appleshaw, Andover, Hampshire.
March 12.

Right response to unchanging IRA

From Mr Michael Ivens

Sir, Instead of a search for a grand settlement in Northern Ireland, statesman Jenkins ("Bombers in command", March 6), we need unglamorous, "bottom-up reforms", starting with local government and the individual communities.

Five years ago, as a young military observer in Palestine I wrote an article on the welcome Jewish-Arab co-operation on Haifa Council. It was true but irrelevant for the Jews who were preparing for battle and the Arabs who said to the British, "Get out and we will drive the Jews into the sea."

I am not recommending a "final battle" scenario for Northern Ireland. But Simon Jenkins is not much more realistic than the hopeful politicians he criticises.

MICHAEL IVENS,
2 Mulgrave Road, NW10.
March 7.

From Mr Desmond Keating

Sir, Despite the heroic destruction of whole cities such as Hamburg, Dresden, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, is it not high time IRA Bomber Command

realised that killing civilians is no longer the way to make friends and influence people?

Yours sincerely,
DESMOND KEATING,
37 Cedar Hall, Millbrook Court,
Milltown Road, Dublin 6.
March 8.

From Brigadier Stephen Gilbert

Sir, Having read Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan's admirable letter (March 8) decrying the killing of civilians as a route to martyrdom, it occurs to me how very welcome a letter from Mr Michael Forsyth, recognises and supports this and has already had a profound effect on public opinion. It is probably too little and too late.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN GILBERT,
c/o Barclays Bank plc
PO Box 33, 171 High Street,
Guildford, Surrey.
March 8.

The 20th century has been characterised by the deceptive, dramatic appeal of the bomb and of grand theories alike and, as Simon Jenkins shows, proponents of both play into each other's hands. We must hope that the 21st century will return to the realities of the parish pump with only the lightest of international structures to control the squabbles that will undoubtedly occur.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN COLEMAN,
Editor, *New European*,
14-16 Carrown Road, SW8.
March 8.

From Mr Michael Ivens

Sir, Instead of a search for a grand settlement in Northern Ireland, statesman Jenkins ("Bombers in command", March 6), we need unglamorous, "bottom-up reforms", starting with local government and the individual communities.

Five years ago, as a young military observer in Palestine I wrote an article on the welcome Jewish-Arab co-operation on Haifa Council. It was true but irrelevant for the Jews who were preparing for battle and the Arabs who said to the British, "Get out and we will drive the Jews into the sea."

I am not recommending a "final battle" scenario for Northern Ireland. But Simon Jenkins is not much more realistic than the hopeful politicians he criticises.

MICHAEL IVENS,
2 Mulgrave Road, NW10.
March 7.

From Mr E. S. Carr

Sir, In his welcome article on land ownership in Scotland (Scottish edition, February 27) Magnus Linklater rightly praised the Duke of Atholl and other landowners who have taken seriously their responsibilities to their tenants and workers and have also recognised the need to preserve Scotland's great wildernesses.

This is a difficult balance, and one which is increasingly rarely achieved. One development which particularly concerns me is a proposal which has recently been submitted to the Highland Regional Council for an extensive development, with a restaurant, a hotel, a shop and a large parking area for cars and coaches on an unspoilt site of great natural beauty and of unique interest to mountaineers and lovers of wild places.

Glen Brittle in the Isle of Skye, where the development is planned, is the most important base for climbing and walking in the Black Cuillin, Britain's grandest range of mountains. Not only would the development be an alien intrusion, visible from many points on the surrounding mountains, it would also — in order to succeed commercially — need to bring in large numbers of people who have never wished to visit the place.

This does not look to me like a public-spirited proposal to provide facilities which are currently lacking.

There is nothing to prevent anyone from visiting the glen now, and there is a good supply of accommodation.

Planning regulations only require that notice of the plan should be published locally. This meant that few people outside the area were aware of it until it was too late to lodge objections. I hope, nonetheless, that this very special place, one of Scotland's most precious jewels, can still be preserved in its present unspoilt condition.

Yours faithfully,
E. S. CARR,
17 Bertram Road, Liverpool.

George Burns

From Mr Michael Waring

Sir, As a lifelong fan of George Burns, the great American comedian, I wish to thank you for the obituary you published about him on March 11. For me it captured the essence of this unique entertainer and helped to lessen the sadness felt at his death.

There was one statement in the obituary, however, that I thought was misleading. When stating that the radio show which Burns and his wife, Grace Allen, started in 1932 and which remained on the air in the US for 18 years, your writer commented that "it never did as well in Britain". It would indeed have been remarkable if it had done so as, with the typical arrogance shown by the BBC at the time, it was never broadcast by them.

To the best of my knowledge, the only opportunity people of this country ever had to hear their shows was direct from the US by short wave or through the American Forces Network (AFN), which started in London in 1943. By the end of the war, AFN had moved out of England and those of us who enjoyed the refreshingly informal and very entertaining American radio shows had to listen to the weak and fading signals emanating from Frankfurt, Munich or Stuttgart.

As Briggs, in his *History of Broadcasting in the United Kingdom* makes clear that the BBC was nervous about the competition from AFN and quite obviously did not want the British to hear programmes such as *The Burns and Allen Show* which posed a threat to their monopoly. The situation changed later with television, of course, and the *Burns and Allen* TV shows became very popular here — as, I am sure, the radio shows would have done, had we been given the opportunity to hear them.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WARING,
15 Park Crescent,
Southport, Merseyside.
March 12.

Sheep clones

From Mr Ian Flintoff

Sir, May I tentatively suggest that your report of March 8 on the cloning of sheep may not be quite right in implying that only undifferentiated cells (ie, in the very earliest embryonic stage) are totipotent, and thus able to develop into the complete organism. In transplantation experiments on cell nuclei

OBITUARIES

MEYER SHAPIRO

Meyer Shapiro, art historian and teacher, died on March 3 aged 81. He was born on September 23, 1904.

THE EARLY years of this century were remarkable in the art world for the reintegration into mainstream thinking of various arts which, until then, had been deemed in some sense primitive and of merely scientific interest. In the 1900s it was African and Oceanic art which was rediscovered, mainly by European artists. In the 1920s it was the turn of early European art, notably the Romanesque and the one man most responsible for this revolution in attitudes was Meyer Shapiro.

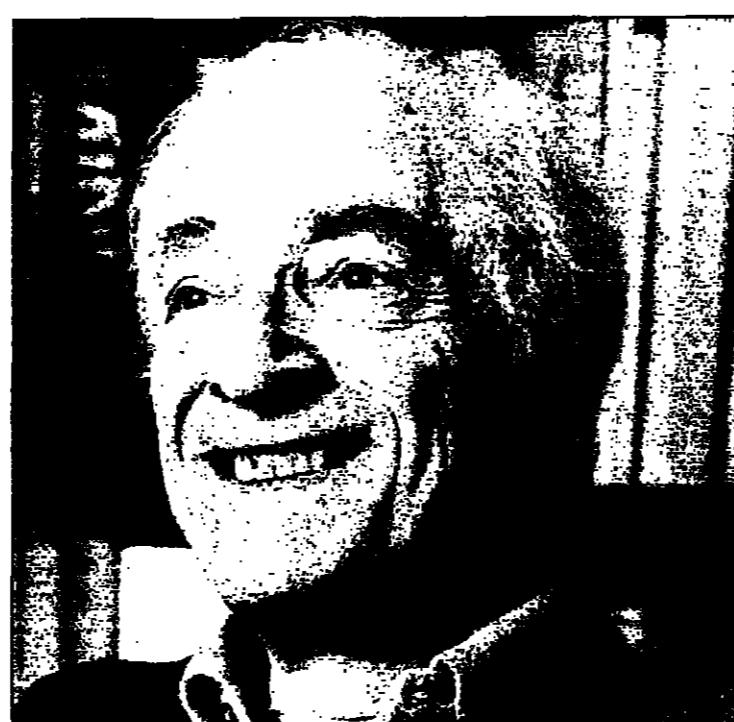
It might be expected that an art historian, especially a very young art historian, should constantly be opening people's eyes to the value of the long neglected or disregarded. But such an expectation often proves over optimistic. Shapiro was a shining exception: he was a one-man answer to the old jibe (adapted from Oscar Wilde's famous definition of a cynic) that an art historian knows the significance of everything and the value of nothing.

Shapiro was not afraid to make value judgments on the past. Indeed, it never occurred to him not to. What he felt in front of a piece of Romanesque sculpture — the great portal of Moissac, for example — was certainly the curiosity of a scholar, but this curiosity was inspired from the outset by a passionate emotional response to the qualities of the work itself as a piece of art which could

speak across the centuries. When Shapiro capped five years of minutely detailed investigation in France by presenting his doctoral dissertation to Columbia University in 1929, his impassioned response was virtually unique in the world, and certainly unheard of in English art historical writing. His work reached a wider audience in 1931 when parts of his research were published in *The Art Bulletin*.

Mysteriously, Shapiro held back from going truly public for much of his professional life. His influence was felt more indirectly, disseminated through the generations of pupils he inspired and the writings of scholars perhaps more adept at popularisation than he was — but always, fortunately, with due acknowledgement. Shapiro did not in fact publish *Romanesque Art*, a collection of his classic essays and lectures, until 1977 when, having virtually retired from academic life, he found the time to put together the four volumes on which his reputation rests.

It is possible that Shapiro was helped towards this clear appreciation of the aesthetic value of Romanesque and early Christian art by not himself being brought up in the same religious tradition. His family were orthodox Jews, Yiddish-speaking and learned in literary Hebrew. He could not take the specifically religious emotions that Christian art would inspire in a born Christian for granted. If he was moved it was for more complex reasons which he urgently needed to understand.



In his teens Shapiro had dreams of becoming an artist himself, but soon recognised that he would never be first-rate and switched instead to art history and philosophy, graduating in these subjects before he was 20. However, the artistic impulse always remained and he perceived art through the eyes of the artist as well as the historian. For this reason he was always able to communicate well

with artists, many of whom he counted among his closest friends, including figures such as Willem de Kooning. There are endless stories of how Shapiro demonstrated to major modern figures such as Léger the immediate appeal of some of the more obscure artefacts of Romanesque and Gothic art.

Given these connections, it is not surprising that Shapiro was able to

write and lecture with equal ease and enthusiasm on the seminal figures of late 19th and early 20th-century art. Among the few works that he published between 1931 and 1977 were brief but idea-packed books on Van Gogh and Cézanne, and during the 1930s he was a vital elucidator of Picasso and Braque, showing an intimidated American audience exactly how they fitted into the great classic tradition.

Most of Shapiro's academic career was spent at Columbia University where he became a lecturer in 1928, assistant professor in 1936, associate professor in 1946, professor in 1952, university professor in 1965, and finally professor emeritus in 1973. In the mid-1930s his ideas moved significantly to the left, and he began writing for the *Partisan Review*, the *Marxist Quarterly* and the *New Masses*, as well as, perhaps more influentially, teaching at the New School for Social Research in New York from 1936 to 1952.

In later life he was showered with honours. As Charles Eliot Norton Lecturer at Harvard from 1966 to 1967 and Slade Professor at Oxford in 1968 he took his duties seriously and enthralled younger generations with an enthusiasm which, at times, carried him away. On the podium he would elaborate new ideas as he went along. Listeners never knew what he was going to say next, because he very often did not know either where his questing mind might lead.

Shapiro married his wife, a pediatrician, in 1928. She and their two children survive him.

PETER MANSFIELD

Peter Mansfield, *Sunday Times* foreign correspondent, died of a stroke in Warwick on March 9 aged 67. He was born in Ranchi, India, on September 2, 1928.

AMONG British writers and commentators on the Middle East, Peter Mansfield earned himself a distinguished place by forty years of thoughtful work and the passion of his convictions. The Arab world, in all its fascination, variety, and maddening contrariness, captured his mind when he was a young man, and he was to remain faithful to Arab aspirations to the end.

His life-long hope, which in his last months turned to something like despair, was that he would live to see an Arab-Israeli peace based on justice. By this he meant Israeli recognition of the Palestinians' right to a state of their own in the West Bank and Gaza, and to compensation for their sufferings in exile and under occupation.

Steeped in the history and politics of the region, he saw this as the only viable proposition for a durable settlement between Arab and Jew. It was there that he met Luis Carrières, a talented and well-born Spanish painter with whom he was to live in model amity in Cairo, London, and Seville for the next 35 years.

For much of the 1960s, Mansfield was the Cairo-based Middle East correspondent of *The Sunday Times*, covering in weekly dispatches the high drama of Nasser's turbulent career — his short-lived union with Syria, his disastrous armed intervention in Yemen, the authoritarian attempt to reshape Egyptian society on socialist lines, and finally the ill-judged gamble in Sinai, which led to the annihilation by Israel of the Egyptian army (and of the Syrian and Jordanian armies) in the 1967 war, and to the occupation by Israel of vast tracts of Arab territory — a legacy bedevilling Middle East politics to this day.

The accords, in the opinion of Mansfield, did little to address themselves to the key issues of self-determination, the fate of more than three million Palestinian refugees dispersed across the Arab world, the future of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and of Arab East Jerusalem.

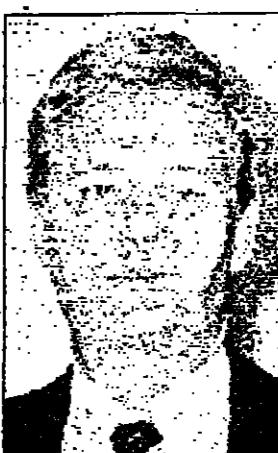
In recent years, Peter Mansfield aired his robust views on these and related matters in *Middle East International*, a well informed journal published in London, where he shared the leader page with Michael Adams, another reliable advocate of the Palestinian cause. Together they were early members of The Council for the Advance of Arab-British, a gentlemanly pro-Arab body.

Peter John Mansfield was born in the Bihar province of India where his father was an official in the Indian Civil Service. After Westminster School and Cambridge (where he was president of the Union), he joined the Foreign Office and in early 1956 was sent to Lebanon to learn Arabic. His background and abilities, and his patrician good looks, seemed to destined him for a successful, if conventional, career.

Critics tended to dismiss Terry and McGhee as their careers developed. Their repertoire inclined to be static. They deplored for big Bill Broonzy on a 1950s' tour of Britain. Later they played in the Broadway production of *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* and then embarked on several years of international travel. They continued to represent the voice of the blues for those who heard them at everything from Oxford and Cambridge May Bals to international rock and blues festivals.

McGhee seldom worked after he and Terry ceased to tour, shortly before Terry's death in 1986.

Brownie McGhee married in 1950 and had five children.



President Nasser, from its control, and, if possible overthrew Nasser. Outraged by this adventure, which brought down Anthony Eden, Mansfield, then aged 28, threw up his promising career in the British service.

To make a living, he turned to freelance journalism in Beirut where, perhaps influenced by the undoubtedly charms of the city in the late 1950s and 1960s, another persona gradually took shape, eloquent, scholarly, free from convention, and very much his own man. It was there that he met Luis Carrières, a talented and well-born Spanish painter with whom he was to live in model amity in Cairo, London, and Seville for the next 35 years.

For much of the 1960s, Mansfield was the Cairo-based Middle East correspondent of *The Sunday Times*, covering in weekly dispatches the high drama of Nasser's turbulent career — his short-lived union with Syria, his disastrous armed intervention in Yemen, the authoritarian attempt to reshape Egyptian society on socialist lines, and finally the ill-judged gamble in Sinai, which led to the annihilation by Israel of the Egyptian army (and of the Syrian and Jordanian armies) in the 1967 war, and to the occupation by Israel of vast tracts of Arab territory — a legacy bedeviling Middle East politics to this day.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Mansfield was not unaware of the flaws in Nasser's character, and that his defence of Arab nationalism was as much bombast as substance, but he was inclined to give the Egyptian leader the benefit of the doubt. Indeed, his first two books, *Nasser: A Biography* and *Nasser's Egypt*, presented the general in a somewhat better light than hindsight would justify. Other books were to follow, but Mansfield's magnum opus was *The Arabs* (1976), a comprehensive and sharply-written survey published in several editions, which survived for several years as a standard work on the region.

Widow unprotected against bank

Lloyds Bank plc v Carrick and Another
Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Morris and Sir Ralph Gibson
[Judgement February 28]

A widow who sold her house and gave the proceeds of £19,000 to her brother-in-law on an oral agreement that that would be valid against a bank sufficient to constitute a defence against a claim for possession in respect of a legal charge subsequently made between her brother-in-law and the bank, charging the lease as security for a loan.

The result would have been different if the title to the matrimonial home had been registered. Then the interests of the widow, who had been in possession since November 1982 and of whom no inquiry had been made, would have been an overriding interest under section 70(1)(b) of the Land Registration Act 1925 and would have been binding on the bank.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the plaintiffs, Lloyds Bank plc, against the order of Mr Recorder Holmes, in Cambridge County Court on July 5, 1994, whereby he (i) dismissed the plaintiffs' claim for possession of leasehold property at 7 Derby Way, Newmarket, and (ii) made a declaration that the first defendant, Mr Michael Robert Carrick, held the lease of that property in trust for the second defendant, Mrs Margaret Carrick, so that her interests and rights over that property were not subject to the bank's charge dated November 25, 1988.

Section 14 of the Law of Property Act 1925 provides: "This part of this Act shall not prejudicially affect the interests of any person in the possession or in actual occupation of land to which he may be entitled in right of such possession or occupation."

Section 70 of the Land Registration Act 1925 provides: "(i) All registered land shall... be deemed to be subject to such of the following overriding interests... and such interests shall not be

treated to be incumbrances within the meaning of this Act... (g) The rights of every person in actual occupation of the land... save where inquiry is made of such person and the rights are not disclosed..."

Miss Josephine Hayes for the plaintiffs Mr Neil Vickery for the defendants.

LODGE JUSTICE MORRIS said that the bank issued a summons against Mr Carrick seeking judgment for £99,010.95 and an order for possession of the matrimonial home.

He submitted the money claim but said that he was a bare trustee of the property for his sister-in-law. Accordingly, Mrs Carrick was named as a defendant.

In her defence it was said that no contract of sale was concluded between the defendants and that the first defendant held his interest in the property upon bare trust for her.

The bank contended that the defendant should have found that the only interest of Mrs Carrick in the matrimonial home was an estate contract within the Land Charges Act 1925 which was void for want of registration against the bank as a purchaser for valuable consideration.

For Mrs Carrick it was submitted that she had an interest separate and distinct from that which arose under the unregistered estate contract. It was contended that she had such an interest under a bare trust, a constructive trust and by proprietary estoppel.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that Mrs Carrick was entitled to the benefit of proprietary estoppel. It was submitted that by reference to the principles set out in *Shelf's Equity* (20th edition) (1990) pp156-157, such an estoppel arose in her favour because she had paid the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable. Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

The source and origin of the trust was the contract; the payment

of the price by Mrs Carrick only served to make it a bare trust by removing any beneficial interest of Mr Carrick. Section 4(6) of the Land Charges Act 1925 avoided that contract as against the bank.

The result must be that Mrs Carrick was unable to establish the bare trust as against the bank for it had no existence except as the equitable consequence of the contract. Accordingly the contention based on the bare trust had to be rejected.

The contention based on the constructive trust was that Mrs Carrick was entitled to the whole beneficial interest in the property and that that interest was not registrable so that the bank, having had constructive notice of it, took subject to it. Reliance was placed on the speech of Lord Bridge of Warwick in *Lloyds Bank v Rosset* [1991] AC 107, 132.

Here there was a trust of the matrimonial home for the benefit of Mrs Carrick because there had been an agreement between her and Mr Carrick which, for her part, she had substantially if not wholly performed. As between her and Mr Carrick such trust subsisted at all times after November 1982.

His Lordship agreed with counsel for the bank that there was no room in those circumstances for the implication or imposition of any further trust for the benefit of Mrs Carrick.

The speech of Lord Bridge in *Lloyds Bank v Rosset* had to be read by reference to the facts of that case. So read there was nothing in it to suggest that where there was a specifically enforceable contract, the court was entitled to superimpose a further constructive trust on the vendor in favour of the purchaser over that which already existed in consequence of the contractual relationship.

The third contention was that Mrs Carrick was entitled to the benefit of proprietary estoppel. It was submitted that by reference to the principles set out in *Shelf's Equity* (20th edition) (1990) pp156-157, such an estoppel arose in her favour because she had paid the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable. Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that Mrs Carrick was entitled to the benefit of proprietary estoppel. It was submitted that by reference to the principles set out in *Shelf's Equity* (20th edition) (1990) pp156-157, such an estoppel arose in her favour because she had paid the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable. Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship said that at the time it was made the contract was valid but, as provided by section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, unenforceable for want of a memorandum in writing or part performance.

The third contention was that

it was unenforceable when in about November 1982 Mrs Carrick paid the purchase price and went into possession. As Mr Carrick had paid the whole of the purchase price at the time the contract became enforceable, Mr Carrick as the vendor had no beneficial interest and could properly be described as a bare trustee.

His Lordship

Both obituary columns and *Desert Island Discs* should offer affectionate recognition of public figures, not derision and criticism

One of the most terrifying moments in my life as a journalist came when, as a novice on the *Patriot-Ledger* in Quincy, Massachusetts, I was asked to update the obituary of the Roman Catholic Cardinal of Boston. Updating obits was what we did in the afternoon, to fill in the stretch between the last deadline for the final edition (1pm) and the time we could go home (3.30pm).

I dialled the Chancery, confident that an able monsignor would fill me in. To my horror the telephone was answered by an unmistakable South Boston voice of jagged steel, renowned for rasping the Rosary over the radio.

The *Patriot-Ledger*. I stammered, wanted to know, if, er, His Eminence had any, gulp, recent honours or publications to add to his... long list of achievements.

"Whaddya wanna know fah?" demanded the shrewd prelate. Now it should not be hard to explain to a man of God of advanced years that he is mortal. Yet somehow I found it so. I cannot

remember how I escaped from this telephonic nightmare, but I do know that I could have assured my interrogator that the word "tramp" would not appear in his obituary.

The row about the Press Association's description of the late Lord Jay as "a shambolic figure once mistaken for a tramp" marks a battle worth fighting. That these and other derisive phrases about a newly dead man should come from a wire service — no stylist's paradise — proves that the trend for fine writing in obituaries has gone too far.

Obituary does not mean hagiography. Everybody welcomes the new freshness of obituary writing which allows for humour, anecdote and reminders of the flaws of the deceased. But an obituary is above all a ceremonial speech, a form of words and information to mark the close of a life. Barbs are permissible, especially if the obitu-

ary is signed. But decorum is essential, as are biographical details. A Last Judgment is not.

A review of the public performance of a prominent figure belongs elsewhere in the paper. And I say paper, because obituaries are inherently a print phenomenon. Paper endures. Why ugly obituaries hurt relatives so much is that they are written records cut out and kept, like wedding photographs, in the family archive.

Accuracy must be uppermost. Nothing can distress a family more than factual errors: two daughters, not a son and a daughter. Middle name James, not John, I imagine that the relatives of the young man who was recently described in the *Brecon and Radnorshire Express* as "126 years old" were just as upset as those of Lord Jay by what they read.

American obituaries, po-faced

social comment in itself. (Anthony Howard, obituaries editor of *The Times*, tells me that he tries to include the cause of death up to the age of 70, after which, barring accident, the cause can be safely assumed to be *anno domini*.)

The very fact of meriting an obituary in a national newspaper implies some contribution to public life. So does an invitation to appear on *Desert Island Discs*. To require those who accept to defend their reputations is an insult to all those who carry around in their heads their own list of eight records, should the call come.

Sue Lawley's mistake is to treat the programme as investigative journalism or psychological prolixity, rather than an affectionate ritual of recognition for having made a mark.

Once again, the sin — for which the producer, who does the editing, should probably get most of the

blame — is to misunderstand the genre. To ask Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, to defend himself against charges of homosexuality because he is unmarried at forty-something is as out of place as if on *Newsnight* Jeremy Paxman were to ask the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, which book he would like to take to desert island, excluding the Bible and Shakespeare which make them so well suited to each other.

So where is the place for judgment, warts and all? Biography — a genre in which I must declare an interest. The living are protected by the laws of libel and defamation, the dead by their executors and the laws of copyright, and both by rival biographers rushing in with a different view. You can be sure that by the time it takes to get a book out, a decent time interval will have elapsed.

In any case, the Amises, dead and alive, can look after themselves. Come to that, probably so can the Jays.

A grilling in Sue Lawley's desert



BRENDA MADDOX

Stiff upper lips: sold out

Alan Mitchell on the marketing drive to free Britain plc from its image of pomp and circumstance

In an age of supposed globalisation, where a product comes from ought not to matter. But like it or not, it does. Consumers believe that France is where good wines and perfumes come from, and they think Japan makes the best consumer electronics. So Elida Gibbs, the British toiletries company headquartered in Kingston upon Thames, recently changed its name to Elida Fabergé. Dixons, meanwhile, sells its own-label electrical goods under the pseudo-Japanese name of Matsui.

Only last week the EC was pronouncing on which products, from feta cheese to champagne, could officially keep exclusive links with their place of origin. But if France stands for wine and perfume and Japan for consumer technology, what does Britain stand for? Burberry and Dunhill, the Royal Family, the Empire — in other words, tradition. Yet now, from the Foreign Office and the Department of Trade and Industry to the Labour Party, there is a growing belief that this may not be the best image of "Britishness".

"Our image has been left in a time warp," says Paul Southgate, chief executive of Wicketts Tutt Southgate, a brand identity firm. "There is a need, if Britain is not to become the world's 'Ye Olde Gifte Shoppe', to inject a sense of dynamism and modernity."

Peter Cheney, secretary of the British Council, agrees. He says there is a view in government circles that "Britain's image is impeding the promotion of British assets".

Marketers in every part of British industry are already having to grapple with the issue. British Airways, British Gas and BT, for instance, have all had to decide whether to keep the tag "British".

Rover deliberately sells Britishness in all its brands, says Ian Strachan, corporate communications director. Land Rover, for example, plays up its associations with the monarchy. But he adds: "The problem we have is that it is difficult to sell technologically advanced products on that basis."

Likewise the British Tourist Authority, which has long traded on Britain's imperial past, recently found that young Europeans and Americans increasingly see a visit to Britain as more like an educational exchange than an exciting holiday. As a result it is now beginning to promote Britain's pop music, fashion and design, and the vibrancy of the London club culture.



Flying the flag: BA, Land Rover and designer Paul Smith all market the "Britishness" of their products

Even arch-purveyors of British tradition such as the Dorchester hotel, Holland & Holland guns, Mulberry, Penhaligon, *Harpers & Queen* and Daks Simpson are becoming concerned about the negative implications of too much heritage. In 1992 they formed the Walpole Committee to promote British excellence and quality.

Jeremy Franks, its chairman (who is also chief executive of Daks Simpson), says: "Yesterday's innovation is today's tradition because it was successful. But if we rely on the past too much, we will become boring and outdated."

The trouble, says Annette Elwes, planning director of the advertising agency BMP, is that while brands such as Dunhill and Fortnum & Mason make a big play of British quality, authenticity and craftsmanship, "what they are actually selling is the class system". And that, she adds, inevitably creates an aura of snobishness.

So what alternatives to that image are there, if any? Britain's role as a leader in scientific research and academic excellence and as a world

financial, media and communications centre belies the cliché of a faded post-imperial decline, declares Sir Martin Jacobson, British Council chairman.

Some British qualities, such as a sense of perspective, balance, human dignity and politeness, remain admired around the world, notes Dave Allen of identity consultants Simpson Tyrrell. Britain's success in the performing arts, design and advertising proves it could play up its creativity and originality, adds Ms Elwes. Paul Smith, the fashion designer, already makes his profits selling a new Britishness abroad; he has 147 shops in Japan.

Research for a British corporation in the US and Japan has, meanwhile, uncovered a potential "gold mine", says Mark Sherrington of Added Value marketing consultants. There is a lasting admiration for British inventiveness and problem-solving, which, he suggests, British service companies could use to differentiate themselves from the "have a nice day" American

approach and the Asian "how low can you bow" style.

Geoff Mulgan, of the independent think-tank Demos, agrees that Britain is under pressure to reinvent its national image. But as all good identity consultants will tell you, the best corporate identity expresses the fundamental spirit of the entity. And the truth is, we Brits are having an identity crisis. The future of the monarchy and the Union. The Irish question. Our relationship with America and with Europe. The state of the economy. These all pose fundamental questions about our past and future. Post-Thatcher, "people aren't sure which parts of our heritage to be proud of", says Mr Mulgan. "What we need is a new set of brand symbols," says Mr Sherrington.

What? Abolish the Union Jack and *God Save the Queen*? As Mr Mulgan points out, both are inextricably linked to our current constitutional arrangements. Giving Britain plc a marketing and image makeover may not be as easy as it seems.

Alexandra Frean on the Harrods chief's ambitions

Al Fayed eyes Observer as base for new media empire

Charmed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, has raised the stakes in his long-running battle to become accepted by the British Establishment. Foiled and frustrated at every turn in his attempts to buy into the media with offers for London News Radio, *Today*, the *Daily Express* and *The Observer*, he has created his own media empire from scratch. It is to be called Liberty Publishing and its first project will be its much-publicised resurrection of *Punch* under the editorship of Peter McKay.

But Mr Al Fayed does not intend to stop there. Although he has ditched plans to launch a mid-market Sunday newspaper, Liberty Publishing is offering "up to £20 million" to buy *The Observer* from the Guardian Media Group. The company has also said it would be prepared to consider buying up other fading print titles to revive them. In the longer term, it is considering expanding into radio, television and other media.

Mr Al Fayed is clearly anxious to avoid charges that he would use *The Observer* and any other media outlets as vehicles for his criticism of the Government for refusing to grant him British citizenship, or for his sleazy allegations against Tory MPs. As Michael Cole, Mr Al Fayed's spokesman, says, the very name of his media company is symbolic. "He chose the name himself and thought it a very good omen when he discovered it was available... he wanted to show that the company was not a branch of Harrods."

Mr Al Fayed has hired two heavyweights to front Liberty. Stewart Steven, former editor of *The Evening Standard*, is chairman and John Dux, managing director from 1990 to 1995 of News International, owner of *The Times*, is general manager.

Mr Steven says he would not have become involved if he thought he were going to be subjected to heavy-handed proprietorial meddling. "After 15 years as an editor, I was in the position of not having to work for the rest of my life. I would simply not have been interested unless it was to produce really marvellous products... What we know

about the sort of proprietorial behaviour indulged in by Tiny Rowland when he owned *The Observer* is that the public won't accept it," he says.

Liberty's offer for *The Observer* comes with formal guarantees of editorial independence. There are promises too of "considerable" editorial budgets for both *Punch* (which cost Mr Al Fayed £50,000) and *The Observer* to ensure that their editors would not need to go running to their proprietor, cap in hand.

If *Liberty* were to acquire *The Observer* — its approaches have so far been rebuffed by the Guardian Media Group — it would target not the *Independent on Sunday* but *The Sunday Times*. "The question is not one of money, but one of time. Taking on *The Observer* is not a job for someone in his sixties."

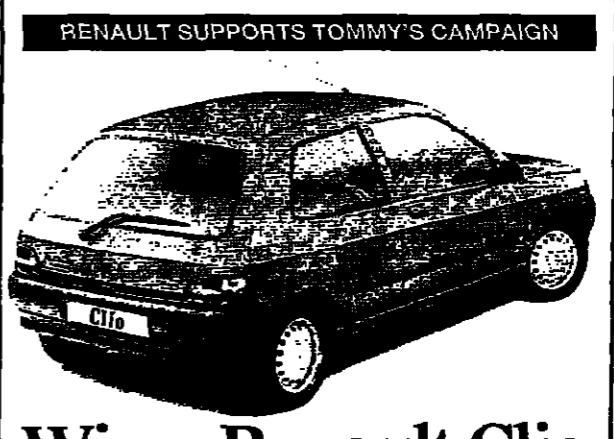
Perhaps Mr Al Fayed's biggest problem, however, will be the prejudice against him, not merely from the Government, but from all levels of the media. As another veteran former Fleet Street editor said: "He will need to recruit a large staff. Prejudice exists among a lot of journalists who would otherwise work for him."



Steven: heavyweight



Al Fayed: no meddling



Win a Renault Clio

RENAULT UK is linking up with *The Times* to offer all our readers the chance to win a fabulous Clio RL Prima, worth £8,000. The Clio has established itself as a car for the young in years and spirit and you can win it simply by entering our prize draw.

There are also 50 runners-up prizes of a copy of *Baby Love*, a compilation CD of love songs produced by EMI on behalf of Tommy's Campaign with 80 per cent of the net profits going to the charity. The artists agreed to waive their royalties and Sainsbury and Savacentre are giving £1 to the charity for every £1.99 CD they sell. Tommy's Campaign was

set up in 1992 to discover why 40,000 babies are born too soon and too small each year in the UK, why one in four women miscarry and why one in 150 babies are lost through stillbirth. You can help to give all babies a better start by sending a donation to: Tommy's Campaign, London, SE9 9RD, or by calling 0171-620-2654.

The attraction of opposites

NEWS and current affairs programmes are more sensitive than most shows to what is on the other side or what is scheduled around them, Alexandra Frean writes. BBC1's Saturday evening news, which tops our chart with 12.8 million viewers, benefited greatly from its position after the popular

drama serial *Casualty*.

Although ITN's *News at Ten* and BBC1's *Nine O'Clock News* are level pegging in our chart, *News at Ten*'s average night-time audience for the whole of 1995 was 6.6 million compared to 5.7 million for the *Nine O'Clock News*.

Brian MacArthur on the latest newspaper sales figures

Mail ready to 'crush' Express

Sir David English, Editor in Chief of the Mail group, has vowed to "crush" the *Sunday Express* if Sue Douglas, its new Editor, succeeds in pushing its sales within reach of *The Mail on Sunday*. He has no need to reach for his cheque book yet.

Ms Douglas deserves sympathy. Sales of the *Sunday Express* have been sinking year by year for four decades. Simply to stop the slide would be an achievement. There are faint signs, moreover, that both she and Richard Addis, the new Editor of the *Daily Express*, are slowing down the rate of decline. Sales of the *Daily Express* dropped by only 9.50 last month, against a fall of 26,000 for the *Daily Mail*, and the *Sunday Express* lost only 7,600.

Year-on-year sales, however, show the uphill task facing Addis and Douglas. Sales of the *Daily Mail* are up by 281,000 (6 per cent) against a fall of 8,800 for the *Daily Express*. *The Mail on Sunday* is up by 188,000 (9.7 per cent) but the *Sunday Express* is down by 131,000 (9 per cent).

Meanwhile, *The Sunday Times* outsold the *Sunday Express* for the second month

running and recorded a sale of more than 1.3 million for the first time since September 1989, when the short-lived *Sunday Correspondent* was launched (followed by the *Independent on Sunday*).

Year-on-year increases are also being recorded by *The Times* (which hit a new record last month) and *outsold The Guardian and The Independent*.

FEBRUARY GAINS AND LOSSES		
Av daily sale		
Compared with Feb 95		
%		
Daily titles		
1,073,601	-51,781	-1.26
2,514,427	+51,044	+2.07
759,885	+5,574	+0.74
2,056,016	-8,808	-0.69
2,039,713	+281,270	+16.00
688,205	+57,515	+9.12
1,027,882	-29,895	-2.83
402,214	-1,191	-0.30
265,809	-4,309	-1.49
308,556	+17,382	+5.96
Sunday titles		
4,656,718	-192,983	-3.98
2,029,115	-46,110	-2.22
2,423,032	-104,193	-4.12
1,279,584	-131,345	-9.31
2,138,465	+188,900	+9.69
1,314,337	+52,134	+4.13
481,367	-12,565	-2.65
656,455	-3,412	-0.52
312,088	-4,063	-1.29
Source: ABC		

BARB (Broadcasters' Audience Research Board)/David Graham & Associates 01863 320229. Copyright/no unauthorized reproduction. Repeats/second transmissions not aggregated. Highest editions per week only. Incomplete network transmissions marked (*).

THE TIMES TOP 20: NEWS AND DOCUMENTARIES

February 19 to 25, 1996</p

NEWS

British threat to European court

■ Britain is ready to seek changes to the Treaty of Rome to stop the European Court of Justice abusing its powers, Malcolm Rifkind said yesterday as another controversial ruling overshadowed the launch of the White Paper on Europe.

The court rebuffed British attempts to quash a European law imposing a maximum 48-hour working week, a decision derided by the Prime Minister as ludicrous and complete nonsense. Pages 1, 2, 3, 19

Washington dinner date for Adams

■ Gerry Adams, ostracised by the British, Irish and American Governments, will attend a dinner in Washington whose guest list includes the First Lady, the Irish Prime Minister, a British minister, Labour's shadow Northern Ireland Secretary and David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist party leader. Page 1

Peking broadside

Coastal areas of China echoed to the sound of shellfire from ships and aircraft as Peking signalled to recalcitrant Taiwan that it will not tolerate its rising international profile. Pages 1, 12, 13

Alarm clock winner

Graham Bradley, on Collier Bay, won the Smurfit Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham. He had lost his ride on Alderbrook, which finished second, because his electric alarm clock failed in a power cut. Pages 1, 44, 45

Loyalist warning

Loyalist terrorists told the IRA they would match its campaign if the ceasefire is not restored. The IRA admitted Friday's bombing in west London. Page 2

Carling rift

Julia Carling said there was no chance of a reconciliation with her husband amid further allegations about his relationship with the Princess of Wales. Page 3

Young drinkers

A judge condemned under-age drinking at a party at which Emily Sims, 16, was run down and killed. Youngsters watched as she was dragged 30 metres. Page 3

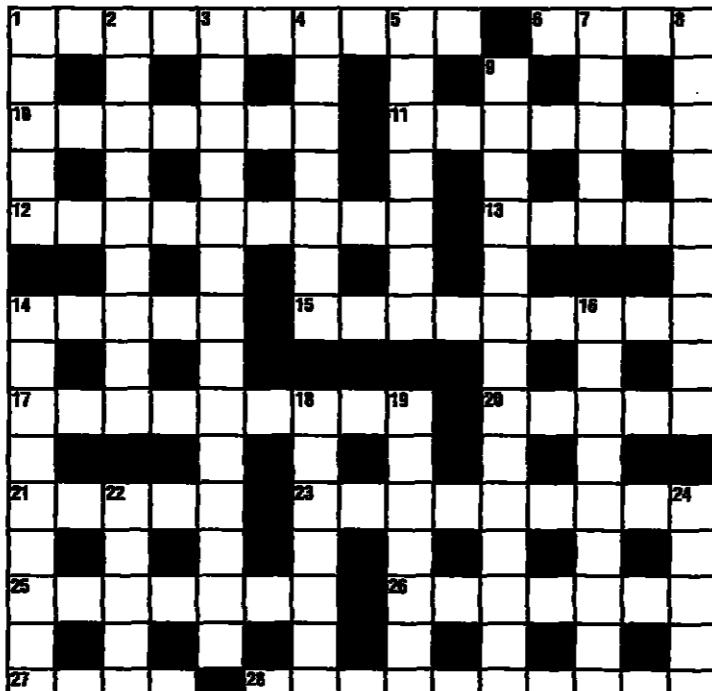
Scrum down

The slightly-built wife of a property developer was accused in court of acting like a "rugby prop" during a struggle with her husband's solicitor. Page 3

Dinosaur moos across the centuries

■ American scientists hope to re-create the calling cry of the *parasaurolophus*, a duckbilled dinosaur, by rebuilding its head from a fossil found in New Mexico. The skull had trombone-shaped air passages, giving the creature a deep moan, similar to the lower notes on a brass instrument. It was last heard 75 million years ago. Page 1

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,114



ACROSS
 1 Where tea may be drunk (2,4,4).
 6 TV doctor has a way to stop hiccups (4).
 10 Member of claque, giving tongue (7).
 11 Fiddlesticks made from English trees (7).
 12 Tape, perhaps, for binding again? (9).
 13 Monk wanting gold, rejected scarlet (5).
 14 Cry about publisher's last book promotion (5).
 15 US city is named, bizarrely, Casanova (6,3).
 17 Non-intellectual feeling at home with lessons (9).
 20 Soldier not allowed, at first, over the top (5).
 21 Bicycle was blue (5).
 23 Creave awfully nasty reign, with no end of oppressing (9).
 25 Judge still handing out time — he removes undesirable elements (7).
 Solution to Puzzle No 20,113

DRAWBRIDGE CHEESE
 T E R N I N G I L
 G A M E W A R D E N I D D E
 S L I I I H A G
 T E L L G O S P E L L E R
 D S D A S R G A
 I N S P E C T S A D C O I N
 S R E C I T
 C O L U M N C O R N M A I L
 O A E C M S C Y
 M I S I N F O R M T I C K
 M H T H A I R P
 O S O L G R A N D N I E C E
 D U S S D C T I
 E A T S D E P O R T M E N T

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 66 per cent of the solo competitors in the Manchester Regional Final of The Times Aberlour Crossword Championship and by 63 per cent of the pairs.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

SIBERIAN FLAMINGOS

Siberian flamingoes in the wildfowl park at Washington, Tyne and Wear. The region was blanketed by snow yesterday. Page 2

Picasso prodigy

The British art world was sceptical about Alexandra Nechita, 10, who is being hailed as "the new Picasso" for paintings that are each selling for up to £40,000 in the United States. Page 5

Writing on the wall

A graffiti artist known as Fista, who carried out an 18-month campaign of vandalism spraying murals on buildings and vehicles throughout South Yorkshire, was jailed for five years. Page 6

Lottery out of luck

The National Lottery must be abolished because it is little more than legitimised fraud and constitutes disguised taxation, Tim Congdon, one of the Treasury's "wise men" says. Page 10

Naina on the stump

Naina Yeltsin, the President's wife, has increased her public engagements in an attempt to boost her husband's election chances. Page 11

Judge arrested

One of Italy's most respected judges, Renato Squillante, was arrested in the anti-corruption drive by Milan's "Clean Hands" magistrates. Page 14

Confident Dole

Robert Dole confidently predicted a clean sweep of the seven "Super Tuesday" primaries, but many Republicans have doubts about his health. Page 15

Dinosaur moos across the centuries

■ American scientists hope to re-create the calling cry of the *parasaurolophus*, a duckbilled dinosaur, by rebuilding its head from a fossil found in New Mexico. The skull had trombone-shaped air passages, giving the creature a deep moan, similar to the lower notes on a brass instrument. It was last heard 75 million years ago. Page 1

BUSINESS

Prudential move: The Pru has opened talks with the Government on what to do with up to £5 billion of assets built up by years of surplus of investment performance over bonus payments to policy holders. Page 25

Cordant: The cost of the turbulent past year emerged as the advertising group announced a pre-tax loss of £22.6 million. Page 25

Mortgages: Bradford & Bingley Building Society cut its variable mortgage rate to 6.99 per cent from 7.24 per cent. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 35.0 points to close at 3639.5. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 83.6 to 83.2 after a fall from \$1.5240 to \$1.5198 and from DM2.2950 to DM2.2496. Page 41

Racing: Collier Bay won the Smurfit Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham, beating Alderbrook, the defending champion and odds-on favourite. Page 48

Boxing: At Johnny Tocco's, the gymnasium of one of America's sporting legends, they are wondering whether there may be a chink in Mike Tyson's armour. Page 46

Clothes: Since his side's defeat in the World Cup, Pakistan captain, Wasim Akram, has received death threats, been issued with a writ, accused of feigning injury and had his house attacked. Page 43

Rugby union: By the end of March Bath hope that their squad of international players will be secured and their long-term future assured by new investment. Page 41

Car-free London? If plans by Britain's top architects come to fruition, some of London's most famous thoroughfares, including Trafalgar Square and the Aldwych, could be pedestrianised. Page 35

All-year Chichester: The impresario Duncan Weldon has announced his intention of turning the Chichester Festival Theatre into an all-year-round repertory house. Page 35

Waste not: A new exhibition at the Craft Council shows an array of exquisite objects made out of waste material. Page 37

Vibrant Violetta: Covent Garden hailed a new star — the Hungarian soprano Andrea Rost, superb as Violetta in the Royal Opera's *La traviata*. Page 36

Women in the wrong: Nigella Lawson analyses why some people are trying to turn Cherie Blair into a Lady Macbeth figure. Page 17

Undignified scrap: Kingsley Amis would not have relished the row between his son Martin and his biographer, Eric Jacobs. Page 17

Simon Jenkins

Ten years ago no diplomat would have dared to write yesterday's White Paper. Whole passages seem to have been lifted from Lady Thatcher's Bruges speech. Page 18

Ralph Harris

Legislation cannot make couples stay together. But a key role of public law is to proclaim acceptable standards of conduct, whether in honesty, fair dealing, tolerance or — dare I say — fidelity. Page 18

Peter Riddell

The IGC could easily become entangled with the far more important negotiations in 1998 on EU enlargement. The White Paper is merely a preliminary manoeuvre in this long campaign. Page 8

Simon Barnes

There is nothing quite so life-enhancing as the proximity of death. Those who take part in dangerous sports are united in their rejection of any suggestion that they possess a death wish. Page 43

Tomorrow

IN THE TIMES

■ FILMS

Geoff Brown reviews

Anthony Hopkins left

in *Nixon*, plus other

new releases

■ BOOKS

Alexander Chancellor

on a forgotten royal

scandal: the unruly

Queen of England

■ CLOTHES

Car-free London? If

plans by Britain's top

architects come to fruition,

some of London's most famous

thoroughfares, including

Trafalgar Square and the Aldwych,

could be pedestrianised. Page 35

■ CLOTHES

Women in the wrong: Nigella

Lawson analyses why some

people are trying to turn

Cherie Blair into a

Lady Macbeth figure. Page 17

■ CLOTHES

Undignified scrap: Kingsley

Amis would not have relished

the row between his son

Martin and his biographer,

Eric Jacobs. Page 17

■ CLOTHES

Simon Jenkins

Ten years ago no diplomat

would have dared to write

yesterday's White Paper.

Whole passages seem to

have been lifted from Lady

Thatcher's Bruges speech.

.... Page 18

■ CLOTHES

Ralph Harris

Legislation cannot make

couples stay together. But a

key role of public law is to

proclaim acceptable stan-

dards of conduct, whether in

honesty, fair dealing, tolerance

or — dare I say — fidelity.

.... Page 18

■ CLOTHES

Peter Riddell

The IGC could easily be

entangled with the far more

important negotiations in

1998 on EU enlargement.

.... Page 8

■ CLOTHES

Simon Barnes

There is nothing quite so life-

enhancing as the proximity of

death. Those who take

part in dangerous sports

are united in their rejec-

tion of any suggestion that

they possess a death wish.

.... Page 43

■ CLOTHES

Ralph Harris

Legislation cannot make

couples stay together. But a

key role of public law is to

proclaim acceptable stan-

dards of conduct, whether in

honesty, fair dealing, tolerance

or — dare I say — fidelity.

.... Page 18

■ CLOTHES

Simon Barnes

There is nothing quite so life-



ARTS 35-37

Can London be made a place fit for walkers?



HOMES 39

How to cope when a family splits up



SPORT 41-48

Bruno exudes new-found air of confidence

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 46, 47

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY MARCH 13 1996

Insurer starts talks with the DTI as bumper dividend is forecast

Prudential to share out surplus assets

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

SHARES in Prudential Corporation surged 27p to 454p yesterday in anticipation of a bumper dividend after the insurer confirmed it had begun talks with the Department of Trade and Industry over redistributing assets surplus to its liabilities to policyholders.

Shareholders stand to benefit from such a distribution, either receiving increased dividends, or a one-off special dividend. The Prudential's six million policyholders may also benefit from a slice of the so-called "orphan" funds. However, the company refused to say whether policyholders would definitely share in the windfall.

The surplus assets of the Prudential, which is the biggest name in personal pensions with a 9 per cent share of the market, are estimated at between £500 million and £5 billion. The Prudential would not specify a more exact figure.

Tomorrow 1.4 million Legal & General with-profits policyholders, who were initially omitted from plans to redistribute surplus funds will learn more about the £160 million special bonus they are to share from the surplus on the long-term fund when year-end results are announced.

L&G's 33,860 shareholders will also hear more about their £15 million payout.

Like other insurers, the Prudential has amassed large reserves over the years because profits from investment have exceeded the actual payouts given to policyholders, and the maximum man-

agement fee has not always been charged to the life fund. The official announcement comes after months of speculation that the company would try to free these funds.

Peter Davis, the Prudential's new chief executive, said yesterday it was "far too early" to say how shareholders or policyholders would benefit, and said talks with the DTI would take at least 12 months.

Some analysts suggested £4 billion might be apportioned to shareholders, which would result in a dividend of more than ten times the current annual payout.

More conservative estimates put the surplus at £2 billion.

Up to 20 per cent of this might go to policyholders, and the remainder to the 87,500 shareholders.

One leading actuary said yesterday that, in theory, a 20 per cent payout might add an additional 3 per cent bonus to a 10-year, £50-a-month policy, maturing this year or next, a cash equivalent of an extra £28 per policy worth £9,500, although such a payment is by no means guaranteed.

Alternatively, if the DTI gave the go-ahead for the surplus funds to become shareholder-owned, they might be spent on plugging up new businesses.

In the case of L&G, surplus funds were split 90:10 between policyholders and shareholders.



Peter Davis, Prudential chief executive, left, and Jonathan Bloomer, finance director

Hanson finishes sell-off in US

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

HANSON yesterday completed its £1.9 billion US asset disposal programme with the £1 billion sale of the remainder of Cavenham, its forest industries subsidiary, to Williamette, an American group.

The news was welcomed by the City which has been keen to see Hanson substantially reduce its debt pile ahead of the company's break-up. Hanson shares closed up 25p at 192p.

Hanson has now disposed of about £1.9 billion worth of assets since the start of the year. Last month, Hanson completed the £510 million float of Surburian Propane on the New York Stock Exchange.

William Landuyt, chief executive of Hanson Industries, said: "These sales have placed us well ahead of schedule on our £2 billion disposal programme. The net cash proceeds will reduce cash and

gearing substantially." Hanson announced its intention to dispose of about £2 billion worth of assets at the end of last year to help to reduce debt after the £2.5 billion purchase of Eastern Group. Hanson still has to sell its 12.5 per cent National Grid stake, inherited with the Eastern acquisition, which is expected to raise a further £400 million.

Hanson shares slumped after the announcement of the demerger plans as worries grew about the tax, debt and dividend consequences. In the past few weeks, the price has climbed as bid rumours circulated around subsidiaries Imperial Tobacco and Eastern, and the company suggested that the tax consequences would not be as bad as the market feared.

The bank said that no jobs would go from the Scottish office.

Tempus, page 28

Barclays to axe 500 regional jobs

BARCLAYS is to cut 500 jobs in its 12 regional offices in England and Wales this year, about a quarter of the staff employed there (Patricia Tchan writes).

Barclays, the banking and finance union, condemned the move.

Rob MacGregor, assistant secretary, said: "These cuts are ill thought out. It's just more cost cutting and it will mean less support for the high street branches."

He also criticised the bank for refusing to rule out compulsory redundancies.

However, a spokesman for Barclays said that the cuts were part of the increased impact of new technology and trying to ensure that the more centralised jobs were done as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible.

The bank said that no jobs would go from the Scottish office.

Liffe gears up for monetary union

BY GEORGE SIVELL

LIFFE, the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange, revealed that it would enter contracts for the possible start of European monetary union. The announcement came as part of London efforts to capture the market in the new euro currency.

If the interest rates differ Liffe made it clear yesterday that it would settle the contracts against euro rates. Liffe said that "if EMU is delayed or if a particular country is not a full participant, the relevant contracts will settle as now".

Last week Matif, the French futures and options exchange, said the French franc three-month Fibor rate, used to settle Fibor futures contracts, would become a euro three-month Fibor rate. Liffe said that it would use as a reference for contracts the British Bankers Association interest settlement rate for euro deposits.

Cordiant boardroom battle costs £20m

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE cost of Cordiant's turbulent past year emerged yesterday as the advertising group announced a full year pre-tax loss of £22.6 million.

The company, formerly known as Saatchi & Saatchi, was thrown into turmoil early last year by bitter boardroom infighting that led to the ousting of Maurice Saatchi, the founder, and the loss of several key accounts to rival advertising groups.

Cordiant has been forced to write-off exceptional costs totalling £20.3 million, including £3.3 million in compensation to the departing top executives and £17 million in reorganisation and general



Bob Seelert, of Cordiant, yesterday drew curtain on past

severance costs. The company also incurred a net loss of £30 million on disposals last year.

But Bob Seelert, chief executive, said: "This draws the

strong growth in advertising revenues and that the company would be in a position to pay a final dividend this year.

Cordiant emphasised that the £133 million rights issue last year had helped to restore financial stability and that new business had restored revenues to the 1994 level. New business included Bell Atlantic, which was the largest single account the company has won in the past five years, plus the Halifax, Hewlett Packard and Kodak accounts.

Turnover, excluding foreign exchange and disposals, increased 21 per cent to £761 million, while profits excluding exceptional items and disposals, were flat at £32 million. Trading margins in-

creased from 5.7 to 6.4 per cent. Cordiant added that it was aiming to achieve margins of 10 per cent by 1998.

Cordiant was hardest hit in New York, falling 15.2 per cent to £267 million, after the company lost the Mars account. Revenue also fell slightly to £112 million in the UK, but grew 14 per cent to £232 million in the rest of Europe and by 5 per cent to £150 million in the rest of the world.

The company said it hoped to achieve the margin performance by further cost control measures but primarily by benefiting from the predicted increase in revenues over the next few years.

Pennington, page 27

لارام

SPORT 41-48

Bruno exudes new-found air of confidence

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 46, 47

Bradford & Bingley rate at 35-year low

By ROBERT MILLER

BRADFORD & BINGLEY yesterday cut its home loan rate to a 35-year low, further fueling the cut-throat nature of the £400 billion mortgage market. The last time borrowers paid such a low rate was in August 1960.

Britain's fifth-largest building society denied accusations from rivals that it was a marketing ploy. A spokesman said that, unlike banks and other societies which were soon to become stock market companies, Bradford & Bingley's new standard variable rate of 6.99 per cent, compared with an industry average of 7.25 per cent, was "a sustainable, long-term commitment".

Of the mainstream bank and building society lenders, only Nationwide Building Society, which last month announced that it would give back to savers and borrowers half of its annual £400 million profit, is comparable with the new Bradford & Bingley rate.

The Halifax, the UK's largest lender, with some 2.3 million borrowers, said: "We still feel that our mortgage rate of 7.25 per cent is appropriate against a bank base rate of 6 per cent, and of course we do offer substantial discounts, such as a 6.1 per cent discount for one year. However, we always keep our rates under review."

The most competitive rates on offer are being promoted by the telephone-based lenders such as Bradford & Bingley Direct, at 5.99 per cent, and Direct Line, a subsidiary of the Royal Bank of Scotland, at 6.25 per cent. A spokeswoman for Direct Line said that it had taken 15,000 calls in the past week alone.

As the market gears up for the traditional Easter weekend start to the house-buying season, competition to lend money to buyers is likely to become even more intense.

Stock market, page 28

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100 3639.5 (-35.0)
Yield 4.00%
FT-SE All share 1810.03 (-10.0)
Nikkei 19950.27 (+153.9)
New York Dow Jones 5526.45 (-54.5)
S&P Composite 633.6 (-6.4)

US RATE

Federal Funds 5.75%* (5.75%)
Long Bond 9.01%* (9.15%)
Yield 6.71%* (6.84%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank 6%* (6%)
3-month gilt future (May) 105.5* (105%)

STERLING

New York £1.5215* (1.5244)
London £1.5195 (1.5243)
DM 2.2500 (2.2539)
FT 7.7022 (7.7245)
SFr 1.2285 (1.2305)
Yen 160.55 (160.19)
S Index 93.7 (93.6)

US DOLLAR

London DM 1.4778* (1.4822)
DM 5.0804* (5.0725)
FT 1.1084* (1.1084)
SFr 105.04 (105.50)
S Index 95.7 (95.6)

Tokyo close Yen 105.58

EUROPEAN STOCKS

London 1.4778* (1.4822)
Paris 1.1084* (1.1084)
Frankfurt 171.55 (\$17.55)

London close ... \$396.10 (\$396.15)

* denotes midday trading price

Volatile day on markets

The FT-SE 100 index fell 35.0 points to close at 3,639.5 after an opening fall on Wall Street upset the London market. By late afternoon in London the Dow had fallen 95 points but by mid afternoon in New York it was down just 39.74 points at 5541.29.

It was the third successive day of volatile trading in New York. Fast receding hopes of lower interest rates sent the Dow crashing 171 points on Friday night before an equally surprising recovery of 110 points on Monday.

Page 28, Anthony Harris, 29

RING US if you need to get

your wife's car UNCLAMPED. Tickets

for England v. Wales at Twickenham.

Someone to HOLD ALL CALLS.

A seat on tomorrow's CONCORDE to

Washington. And a letter to a shareholder,

in JAPANESE.

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 4HP

Who else offers a 100% three-month refund guarantee on permanent Secretaries, PAs and Administrators? Or a 15 minute call back on Temp bookings? For exceptional people phone an exceptional company on 0171 734 7341.

Best policy at the Pru Employment agencies gain from flexible working Admen back on the straight and narrow

IF PRECEDENT is followed, then yesterday's excitement on the stock market over the discovery of up to £5 billion lying around at the Pru's palatial offices at Holborn Bars was distinctly overplayed. But with that much cash at stake, that is a big if.

Last year the same awful problem, an embarrassing overabundance of the readies, cropped up at several other life companies, most significantly Legal & General. In a landmark case, the insurer went to the Department of Trade and Industry for a ruling on what to do with surpluses on its with-profit fund.

The L&G was nervously eyeing Allianz, the German insurer that was supposed, according to rumours of the time, to be considering a takeover. There was good reason to keep shareholders sweet, by slipping some of the cash to them in higher dividends rather than using it to boost bonuses for policyholders, or even keeping it in reserves against a rainy day or a tumble on the stock market. Another day, another rumour; L&G now is supposed to be on NatWest's hit-list.

There emerged at L&G a champion of the policyholders, in the form of Sir John Nott, formerly the microphone-thrashing defence secretary, now chairman of the food combine

Hillsdown Holdings and a one-time head of Lazard Brothers. Sir John had two of the insurer's policies and thought quite reasonably, that policyholders who had put their cash in its hands to invest with profits should keep the same, or at least most of it.

It is hard to disagree with him. What is being argued about is the extent that investments whose value has expanded beyond what is required to provide for the "reasonable expectations" of their owners should stay with the same. But a life policy is not like a bet on the 4-45 at Sandown; it is not a fixed payout but the result of decades of investment.

The DTI took a clear 90:10 split that gave shareholders the smallest slice, following earlier precedent. The situation is complicated because the exact source of the L&G surplus and the Prudential's "orphan assets" is different, and the company would seem to have a better claim. The principle is the same.

The Pru's Peter Davis will not speculate over what the assets are worth, nor where they should end up. This is because he has

his own designs on what cash comes the Pru's way. The company, like anyone else in financial services with enough clout, is considering a UK life insurer, and some talks have already taken place.

If the best analysis' estimates about the value of the orphan assets are correct, and if the Pru is required to settle for 10 per cent, then this offers £500 million towards any such purchase. Alternatively, it can be used to enhance dividends to shareholders. Either way, everybody gains — including the policyholders whose funds were invested in the first place.

Job uncertainty, profits certainty

IF EUROPE does eventually manage to export a 48-hour working week to Britain, this will only accelerate the move towards so-called "flexible employment", and part-time or contract workers. The losers will be full-timers, forced into less secure or worse-paid jobs; but this is no bad news for those companies providing

few City careers along with that of its founder, Tony Berry.

Most employment agencies now tend to operate under the umbrella of rather larger people-oriented businesses, such as Hays, whose own business specialising in professionals reported profits up by a third last week, or bid-stricken BET. There are a few freestanding — USM-quoted Select Appointments for one, firm now back into the black after its own traumas, or Reed Executive.

Traditionally, part-time hirings increase during recession, while recovery spurs the employment of more full-timers. This time out of recession the pattern has not been repeated, employers even in Britain expanding by hiring disposable part-timers, so saving on employment costs and expensive redundancy payments if it all goes wrong again.

Meanwhile, continental businesses already locked into the social chapter and even more rigid job laws have their own compelling reasons to turn to non-permanent staff. The result must be further consolidation

within a small industry that is still fragmented, and further growth all round. But do mind out for the next Blue Arrow.

Après le débâcle at Cordiant

ONE would have thought the best creative minds at Cordiant, né Saatchi & Saatchi, could have thought of a better word for last year than watershed. It was more like Niagara Falls, and Cordiant went over it in a barrel.

The result was the kitchen sink job that was Cordiant's 1995 figures, and a keenness to draw a lead-lined fire curtain over the past. Yet the company exited the year in reasonable state, with revenues up 2.1 per cent, despite the loss of BA, Mars, Dixons and the rest, and trading margins that actually improved from 5.7 per cent in 1994, before the departure of the Saatchi brothers and their entourage.

Cordiant is now also debt-free, thanks to the £133 million its shareholders put up late last year. The share price looks wedged above a pound, and

there is the promise of a dividend payment this year that even if only nominal will help market sentiment.

The board, led by the new chief executive Bob Seelert, has pledged to get to 10 per cent margin by 1998. If the company matches the 8 per cent or so annual growth in advertising revenues being forecast by media pundits such as Zenith, then profits of £60 million are achievable by next year, the sort of level that would justify, on any normal multiple, the current share price. That would put the final seal on Cordiant's return to respectability.

Down to brass tax

IF THE British public were to invest, in total, £100 million in the National Lottery, and were to reinvest the winnings for 12 weeks, how much would be left? Just £28.17, says Tim Congdon, writing in the journal of the Institute of Economic Affairs. He calls, probably tongue in cheek, for the lottery to be taken to the Serious Fraud Office, or at least the Securities and Futures Authority. At the end of the day, says Mr Congdon, the lottery is "disguised taxation". Yet should the IFA all good free marketers, not be in favour of indirect, say voluntary taxation?

Williams to expand its global empire

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

WILLIAMS HOLDINGS, the diversified industrial company, said yesterday that it is aiming to expand its global presence through a series of acquisitions in its core fire protection, security and building products divisions.

Roger Carr, chief executive, said: "We are considering acquisitions for all of our key areas, and believe that there are plenty of opportunities for expansion."

Mr Carr also predicted a less gloomy future for its building products division, saying that while the market would initially remain weak in Europe, the outlook in the United States is improving. He added that demand for fire protection and security products remains firm.

Williams unveiled a 14 per cent rise in full-year profits to £228 million boosted by a strong performance from its fire protection division, and a £9.1 million exceptional profit

Tempus, page 28

Costs rise takes toll of Delta

By PHILIP PANGALOS

SHARPLY higher raw material costs and margin erosion in competitive UK conditions combined with restructuring costs to take a toll on full-year profits at Delta, the electric cables to engineering group.

An £11 million restructuring charge in its cables division, involving about 200 job losses, and higher interest costs cut Delta's pre-tax profits to £53.1 million (£65.1 million) in the year to December 30. Delta's cables business has been hit by oversupply and competitive trading conditions, compounded by higher raw material costs and depressed conditions.

Group turnover advanced 13 per cent to £1.02 billion. The total dividend is 18.9p (15.5p), boosted by a foreign income dividend of 14.4p (11.2p). Earnings fell to 20p (27.7p) a share.

Delta plans to acquire the Southeastern Galvanizing Division of Reeves Corporation, of Florida, for \$9.7 million.

Thorntons issues new alert

By SARAH BAGNALL

THORNTONS, the chocolate maker and retailer, has issued its second profits warning in four months, blaming falling sales and the cost of its store refurbishment programme. The shares fell 6p to 135p.

Roger Paffard, the new chief executive, said: "We expect to break even at the operating-profit level in the second half, and, as a result, the full-year result will be significantly below last year's £10.2 million of operating profit before exceptional items."

As a result, Thorntons is expected to report a full-year operating profit of £7.6 million. The refurbishment programme is forecast to cost £900,000.

Thorntons saw pre-tax profits fall from £9.6 million to £7.6 million in the 28 weeks to January 6. Sales rose slightly to £59.2 million. The dividend, due on April 30, is held at 15p. The group said that it intended to maintain the final payment.

Wolseley shares slip after profit warning

By CARL MORTISHED

SHARES in Wolseley, the builders' merchant, slipped 12p, to 465p, after the company said that full-year profits will be below last year's level. Weak demand in the UK and the cost of shutting a manufacturing plant reduced pre-tax profits for the six months to January 31 from £117 million to £111 million.

Jeremy Lancaster, chairman, said that there were signs of an upturn in the housing market, but gave warning that it would arrive too late to affect second-half profits and that the Continent would remain difficult for the full calendar year.

In the year to July 31,

Tempus, page 28

A division of the spoils

PENNINGTON



the new breed of workers. In the States, despite signs of economic growth, the downsizing has not stopped and job losses among middle managers continue. Corporate America is turning more and more towards temporary staff, both clerical and further up the management chain, even up to lawyers and accountants. As a result, companies such as Olsen and Manpower, which both came out with good fourth-quarter figures recently, have seen their shares rise by as much as a fifth over the past year.

The employment sector in Britain has been under its own shadow: Blue Arrow and the fallout from over-enthusiastic expansion that put a hiatus in a

WE NEED MORE CUSTOMER RESPONSE, OLIVER. GET ONTO IT, WILL YOU ? YES SIR.

LATER ... I PUT IN A FREECALL NUMBER, SIR. AND WE'VE INCREASED OUR RESPONSES BY 2,000. RIGHTY-HO.

YES, DEAR. MY IDEA HAS BROUGHT IN A LOT OF EXTRA RESPONSES. LET'S CELEBRATE WITH A SHORT HOLIDAY. DO YOU FANCY GLENEAGLES OR ST. ANDREWS ?

MERCURY CAN SHOW YOU HOW THEIR FREECALL 0500 NUMBER IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO INCREASE YOUR RESPONSE RATE DRAMATICALLY.

STILL DEALING WITH ALL THE EXTRA ENQUIRIES ? WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING RIGHT NOW. THE BOSS HAS GONE TO SCOTLAND FOR 6 WEEKS.

missing you in Glenelg

FreeCall 0500 500 400

Mercury Communications Limited, New Mercury House, 28 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4HQ.

<http://www.mercury.co.uk>

A MEMBER OF THE CABLE & WIRELESS GROUP

MERCURY COMMUNICATIONS

When mankind meets machine, Mercury can help.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Mortgage war fears hit big bank shares

THE threat of an all-out mortgage war among the banks and building societies hung over the Square Mile like a cloud.

Shares of the big banks were left to bear a ragged retreat amid fears that profit margins were about to come under further pressure. The move followed the decision of the Bradford & Bingley Building Society to cut its variable mortgage rate and join Nationwide at 6.99 per cent.

Other banks are expected to follow their lead and cut rates, signalling a scramble for market share in an already depressed housing market.

The move may eventually help to revive house prices. But yesterday it merely succeeded in depressing share prices of the big banks. Bank of Scotland fell 18p to 241½p, Abbey National 26p to 534p, Barclays 26p to 688p, National Westminster 28p to 616p, Royal Bank of Scotland 18p to 512p, and Lloyds TSB 15½p to 297p.

The outlook was made all the more depressing by the news that the Prudential Corporation, Britain's biggest financial institution, was poised to move into the mortgage market. It coincided with full-year figures from the Pru showing pre-tax profits hit £1 billion last year, compared with £358 million. The company also excited City watchers by announcing it was in talks with the Department of Trade & Industry about orphan assets worth £5 billion. In spite of worse than expected bad weather claims, profits came in at the top end of expectations. The shares responded with a rise of 27p to 454p.

Elsewhere, the big City fund managers were finding it difficult to make money yesterday. Even the favourite failed to come up with the goods at the Cheltenham Hurdles on the first day of the Cheltenham Festival.

Share prices spent another volatile session giving up early gains as the Dow Jones industrial average followed up Monday's rise of 111 points with an early fall of almost 80 points in resumed trading yesterday. The FT-SE 100 index suffered a 69.1 turnaround to close near its low for the day with a fall of 35.0 at 3,639.5. The total number of shares traded was 728 million.

Profit-taking left Cable and Wireless 10p lower at 467p after Monday's sharp rise on



Gwyn Ward Thomas, Y-TIT chairman, flanked by Bruce Glynch, chief executive, left, and Nick Castro, finance chief

confirmation that it had been in talks with BT, down 7p at 354½p. It seems that both sides had agreed a share swap so that BT would not be forced to make a £5 billion bid for the minority stake in Hong Kong Telecom, 57 per cent owned by C&W. But it seems the talks broke down earlier this month over the question of valuing C&W.

Henderson

the number of passengers using its airports was good for 3p on BAA Group at 514p. The figure rose 12 per cent to 6.2 million last month.

Cordiant, the advertising agency, celebrated better than expected full-year figures and the promise of a return to the dividend list with a rise of 2p at 105p. The loss at the pre-tax level came in at £22 million

BP marked time at 531½p before a presentation for brokers later today at its London headquarters. It is expected to outline progress on Phase 3 of its re-organisation, which includes dividend policy. The group will give a briefing to brokers in New York later this week. A total of five million shares were traded by the close.

Crosthwaite, the broker, has put a break-up value on C&W of 560p a share giving it a price tag of £12.4 billion.

Speculative buying continued to drive Yorkshire Electricity 25p higher at 795p as more than a million shares changed hands. There is still talk of a possible bid for the company from one of the big utility companies. A sharp jump in

the City appeared im-

pressed with full-year figures from TI Group showing a 23 per cent leap in pre-tax profits to

£13.3 million.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Worries about further falls facing US Treasury bonds undermined the London market, where prices drifted throughout the session. The worst falls were seen at the longer end although traders say that selling at the shorter end appears to have been overdone.

In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt dropped £15½ to £1049½, with turnover levels reduced. By the close, a total of £6,000 contract had been completed.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 lost £16 at 996½, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £4 lower at £101½.

□ **NEW YORK:** The Dow Jones industrial average was down 54.55 points to 5,526.45 at midday as investors took profits after Monday's surge. The bond market remained under pressure.

about £100 million more than the predicted £1.5 billion. Bid rumours have also begun to circulate around Imperial Tobacco and Eastern Group, helping to push the shares higher.

Revised valuations are quoting a demerged Hanson at between 220p and 240p.

While doubts will continue to linger until the plans are spelled out in more detail, expect the share price recovery to continue at a gentle pace.

Hanson

LORD HANSON's decision to break up the company threatened to turn his retirement into a wake rather than, the intended final hurrah.

The share price slumped almost immediately after the announcement of the demerger plan as fears grew about the tax, debt and dividend consequences of the demerger.

At one stage, the price touched 180p, a fall of around 10 per cent in value. But in the past couple of weeks, sentiment has begun to turn, not via the traditional Hanson trick of a scintillating deal, but the gradual drip of more positive information into the market.

It is now believed that initial fears about a huge rise in the tax charge for the four demerged companies has been overstated. The debt burden remains a worry, but Hanson has successfully sold Cavenham and floated Caversham and Suburban Propane

about £80 million more than the predicted £1.5 billion. Bid rumours have also begun to circulate around Imperial Tobacco and Eastern Group, helping to push the shares higher.

Revised valuations are quoting a demerged Hanson at between 220p and 240p.

While doubts will continue to linger until the plans are spelled out in more detail, expect the share price recovery to continue at a gentle pace.

TI Group

TI GROUP has turned in strong performances, improved margins and is poised to benefit from an upturn in aerospace. Furthermore, it has eliminated its debt and is substantially cash generative.

But such a rosy picture should not shield the fact that it is very much steady as she goes for the engineering and aerospace giant. TI will not be splashing its money around and, while the company is in a

robust state, it is also constrained to a significant degree by the fairly subdued economies in which the group operates.

The long-awaited upturn in the aerospace market is emerging about two years later than anticipated. And progress in the automotive industry, to which TI is also exposed, is likely to be steady but slow.

So a measure of caution is warranted. A few deals in the Bundy and John Crane divisions can be expected, but nothing that would make a splash.

Margin elevation is likely to be limited this year after modest advances in 1995 although there is some scope in aerospace now that Messier-Dowty is fully absorbed into the group.

TI deserves its quality rating, but opportunities to improve radically the quantity of its earnings are not likely to drop off the shelf.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

about £100 million more than the predicted £1.5 billion. Bid rumours have also begun to circulate around Imperial Tobacco and Eastern Group, helping to push the shares higher.

Revised valuations are quoting a demerged Hanson at between 220p and 240p.

While doubts will continue to linger until the plans are spelled out in more detail, expect the share price recovery to continue at a gentle pace.

Hanson

LORD HANSON's decision to break up the company threatened to turn his retirement into a wake rather than, the intended final hurrah.

The share price slumped almost immediately after the announcement of the demerger plan as fears grew about the tax, debt and dividend consequences of the demerger.

At one stage, the price touched 180p, a fall of around 10 per cent in value. But in the past couple of weeks, sentiment has begun to turn, not via the traditional Hanson trick of a scintillating deal, but the gradual drip of more positive information into the market.

It is now believed that initial fears about a huge rise in the tax charge for the four demerged companies has been overstated. The debt burden remains a worry, but Hanson has successfully sold Cavenham and floated Caversham and Suburban Propane

about £80 million more than the predicted £1.5 billion. Bid rumours have also begun to circulate around Imperial Tobacco and Eastern Group, helping to push the shares higher.

Revised valuations are quoting a demerged Hanson at between 220p and 240p.

While doubts will continue to linger until the plans are spelled out in more detail, expect the share price recovery to continue at a gentle pace.

TI Group

TI GROUP has turned in strong performances, improved margins and is poised to benefit from an upturn in aerospace. Furthermore, it has eliminated its debt and is substantially cash generative.

But such a rosy picture should not shield the fact that it is very much steady as she goes for the engineering and aerospace giant. TI will not be splashing its money around and, while the company is in a

robust state, it is also constrained to a significant degree by the fairly subdued economies in which the group operates.

The long-awaited upturn in the aerospace market is emerging about two years later than anticipated. And progress in the automotive industry, to which TI is also exposed, is likely to be steady but slow.

So a measure of caution is warranted. A few deals in the Bundy and John Crane divisions can be expected, but nothing that would make a splash.

Margin elevation is likely to be limited this year after modest advances in 1995 although there is some scope in aerospace now that Messier-Dowty is fully absorbed into the group.

TI deserves its quality rating, but opportunities to improve radically the quantity of its earnings are not likely to drop off the shelf.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

about £100 million more than the predicted £1.5 billion. Bid rumours have also begun to circulate around Imperial Tobacco and Eastern Group, helping to push the shares higher.

Revised valuations are quoting a demerged Hanson at between 220p and 240p.

While doubts will continue to linger until the plans are spelled out in more detail, expect the share price recovery to continue at a gentle pace.

Hanson

LORD HANSON's decision to break up the company threatened to turn his retirement into a wake rather than, the intended final hurrah.

The share price slumped almost immediately after the announcement of the demerger plan as fears grew about the tax, debt and dividend consequences of the demerger.

At one stage, the price touched 180p, a fall of around 10 per cent in value. But in the past couple of weeks, sentiment has begun to turn, not via the traditional Hanson trick of a scintillating deal, but the gradual drip of more positive information into the market.

It is now believed that initial fears about a huge rise in the tax charge for the four demerged companies has been overstated. The debt burden remains a worry, but Hanson has successfully sold Cavenham and floated Caversham and Suburban Propane

about £80 million more than the predicted £1.5 billion. Bid rumours have also begun to circulate around Imperial Tobacco and Eastern Group, helping to push the shares higher.

Revised valuations are quoting a demerged Hanson at between 220p and 240p.

While doubts will continue to linger until the plans are spelled out in more detail, expect the share price recovery to continue at a gentle pace.

TI Group

TI GROUP has turned in strong performances, improved margins and is poised to benefit from an upturn in aerospace. Furthermore, it has eliminated its debt and is substantially cash generative.

But such a rosy picture should not shield the fact that it is very much steady as she goes for the engineering and aerospace giant. TI will not be splashing its money around and, while the company is in a

robust state, it is also constrained to a significant degree by the fairly subdued economies in which the group operates.

The long-awaited upturn in the aerospace market is emerging about two years later than anticipated. And progress in the automotive industry, to which TI is also exposed, is likely to be steady but slow.

So a measure of caution is warranted. A few deals in the Bundy and John Crane divisions can be expected, but nothing that would make a splash.

Margin elevation is likely to be limited this year after modest advances in 1995 although there is some scope in aerospace now that Messier-Dowty is fully absorbed into the group.

TI deserves its quality rating, but opportunities to improve radically the quantity of its earnings are not likely to drop off the shelf.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

about £100 million more than the predicted £1.5 billion. Bid rumours have also begun to circulate around Imperial Tobacco and Eastern Group, helping to push the shares higher.

The long-awaited upturn in the aerospace market is emerging about two years later than anticipated. And progress in the automotive industry, to which TI is also exposed, is likely to be steady but slow.

So a measure of caution is warranted. A few deals in the Bundy and John Crane divisions can be expected, but nothing that would make a splash.

Margin elevation is likely to be limited this year after modest advances in 1995 although there is some scope in aerospace now that Messier-Dowty is fully absorbed into the group.

TI deserves its quality rating, but opportunities to improve radically the quantity of its earnings are not likely to drop off the shelf.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

about £100 million more than the predicted £1.5 billion. Bid rumours have also begun to circulate around Imperial Tobacco and Eastern Group, helping to push the shares higher.

The long-awaited upturn in the aerospace market is emerging about two years later than anticipated. And progress in the automotive industry, to which TI is also exposed, is likely to be steady but slow.

So a measure of caution is warranted. A few deals in the Bundy and John Crane divisions can be expected, but nothing that would make a splash.

Margin elevation is likely to be limited this year after modest advances in 1995 although there is some scope in aerospace now that Messier-Dowty is fully absorbed into the group.

TI deserves its quality rating, but opportunities to improve radically the quantity of its earnings are not likely to drop off the shelf.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

about £100 million more than the predicted £1.5 billion. Bid rumours have also begun to circulate around Imperial Tobacco and Eastern Group, helping to push the shares higher.

The long-awaited upturn in the aerospace market is emerging about two years later than anticipated. And progress in the automotive industry, to which TI is also exposed, is likely to be steady but slow.

So a measure of caution is warranted. A few deals in the Bundy and John Crane divisions can be expected, but nothing that would make a splash.

Margin elevation is likely to be limited this year after modest advances in 1995 although there is some scope in aerospace now that Messier-Dowty is fully absorbed into the group.

TI deserves its quality rating, but opportunities to improve radically the quantity of its earnings are not likely to drop off the shelf.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

about £100 million more than the predicted £1.5 billion. Bid rumours have also begun to circulate around Imperial Tobacco and Eastern Group, helping to push the shares higher.

The long-awaited upturn in the aerospace market is emerging about two years later than anticipated. And progress in the automotive industry, to which TI is also exposed, is likely to be steady but slow.

So a measure of caution is warranted. A few deals in the Bundy and John Crane divisions can be expected, but nothing that would make a splash.

Margin elevation is likely to be limited this year after modest advances in 1995 although there is some scope in aerospace now that Messier-Dowty is fully absorbed into the group.

TI deserves its quality rating, but opportunities to improve radically the quantity of its earnings are not likely to drop off the shelf.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

about £100 million more than the predicted £1.5 billion. Bid rumours have also begun to circulate around Imperial Tobacco and Eastern Group, helping to push the shares higher.

The long-awaited upturn in the aerospace market is emerging about two years later than anticipated. And progress in the automotive industry, to which TI is also exposed, is likely to be steady but slow.

So a measure of caution is warranted. A few deals in the Bundy and John Crane divisions can be expected, but nothing that would make a splash.

Margin elevation is likely to be limited this year after modest advances in 1995 although there is some scope in aerospace now that Messier-Dowty is fully absorbed into the group.

Almost anyone who has slept in a feather bed (still to be found in some Alpine retreats) has had the same feeling. Warm, deep sleep, then the sun rises. A friend, eager to get started, rudely pulls off the cedarwood; and for a moment the world seems a cold and threatening place; but not for long.

That was Wall Street last Friday. For months, the market has been luxuriating in softness — sluggish recovery, no cold inflationary draughts, falling interest rates, and lots of idle money. At any hint of brightness that might disturb its slumber, it has hidden its head under the pillows. Then the Bureau of Labor Statistics whipped off the covers. But now, the day does look rather jolly.

Yet there was really no excuse for being so shocked. First, the payroll figure — a rise of 705,000 — was not as startling as it looked. Adjust for the cold-weather layoffs of January, and we get an underlying rise of 268,000 a month for January and February

End of Wall Street's wishful pessimism

together; not the soft featherbed scenario, but perfectly consistent with most of the other March figures. The month opened with car and truck sales sharply ahead of expectations, followed with consumer credit and M2 both some \$4 billion above advance guesses. Personal income growth, department store sales, factory orders and unemployment claims have all told the same story.

In terms of activity, this adds up to solid recovery. Indeed, the evidence was clear to the recipient long before March. It is three months to the day since this column reported a warning (or rather a promise) from Bob Brusca, of Nikko in New York, who had been sounding the same wake-up call for three months before that.

He argued forcefully that the weak monthly figures that had just appeared were misleading. Stand back a little, look at the three-month and six-month

trends, and the picture changed to one of vigorous underlying recovery, led by investment, housing and factory orders. The March announcements simply extend those trends. Our own warning against paying attention to isolated monthly figures stands, too; especially after a US government shutdown, and the ensuing disruption.

To be fair, dealers have proved more alert than most of their economic analysts. While the economic consensus was stuck at "soft landing", or even warning of a new recession, prices were responding to reality.

A few months ago, the bond yield curves suggested a whole series of further interest rate cuts; by ten days ago, they looked only for a final quarter-point cut; their disappointment, and

their reaction, has been moderate, and only the consensus analysts are left looking really foolish. Now, of course, the question is different: no longer "When can we expect the next cut?" but "When will the Fed start raising rates again?"

European central bankers, who appear to believe that above-trend growth, regardless of context, always means potential inflation, would allow little time to wonder. Figures like those that have appeared in the US this month would call for an immediate crack of the whip. The Fed, by contrast, is concerned to check inflation, not growth. The regional reserve banks constantly check local trends and have been reporting underlying strength for some time. At headquarters, a large economic staff works full time to

measure such things as the growth of productive capacity (the subject here only of limp guessimates), possible errors in the inflation numbers, and labour market behaviour. Most of these soundings suggest that the US economy is still well clear of shoal water. The US investment boom (which has no echo here, alas) has raised capacity faster than output, according to the Fed's index; and Alan Greenspan also believes that modern computer-based management techniques make it safe to get nearer to the limits of potential. He has also suggested that the official consumer price index figures overstate inflation, perhaps by more than a full percentage point, because they make little allowance for quality improvements. The purchasing manager survey still shows input prices and in the housing market, which has seen one of the strongest volume recoveries, prices are

actually falling, thanks to an over-ambitious rate of housing starts.

Indeed, the only area at which inflation worries can at the moment point a shaking finger is the labour market. The current unemployment rate, 5.5 per cent, is a full point below what was until recently regarded as the safe limit; and even if the announced February employment bounce is revised downwards (seen as likely), unemployment is probably still trending down. But in spite of these figures, and a seemingly alarming 3.5 per cent jump in unit labour costs because employment tends to rise ahead of output, the Fed is apparently waiting to see.

Has job insecurity radically changed bargaining behaviour? Does third-world competition, which checks manufacturing costs, also restrain behaviour in sheltered markets such as the service sector? The US, now the world's growth laboratory, will be the first to discover how these questions are answered in a deregulated economy. But even if the answers are favourable, would they be the same in Europe?

THE
TIMES

CITY
DIARY

On the fast track from Dublin

BRIAN WILSON, the genial banker who served 21 years with Allied Irish Bank, rising to be a managing director in Dublin, is enjoying the luck of the Irish. Wilson, 50, joined the World Bank in May as a senior adviser, was soon promoted to director status, and yesterday was further promoted to vice-president of financial policy and institutional strategy. His fast track is part of World Bank president Jim Wolfensohn's determination to make the august body as international as possible. And there are still three days to go to St. Patrick's Day.

Off target

LORD ARCHER OF WESTON-SUPER-MARE was beaten by a hack of *Esquire* magazine's "Get rich quick challenge". Six men were given £500 and a week to see how much they could make with it. Step forward Jeff Randall, soon to quit the world of PR to return to journalism, who finished £590 up, leaving Lord Archer in second place clutching £460. Part-time punter Randall made his money on the golf course and in the casino. Lord Archer made his money buying and selling a picture, donating his winnings to the British Red Cross. Losing wasn't easy for Lord Archer. "If he's so good, then why isn't he a millionaire?" he jested.



Archer: sold picture

Sarah Bagnall
says landlords
are trying to
tie down their
retail tenants

There has never been much love lost between Britain's landlords and their commercial tenants. Each has exploited every opportunity to gain the upper hand in a bid to strike the best deal possible, with their resulting successes dictated by the prevailing balance of power between the two parties.

In the 1960s the landlords were firmly in the driving seat but the rise of the shopping centre — in and out of town — has helped to propel the tenants into a position of power. As a result of the glut of space, tenants have been able to win a string of concessions, such as rent-free periods and lease breaks. But landlords are beginning to fight back.

Cluses hitherto ignored are now starting to be enforced as the Royal Bank of Scotland and Safeway are discovering to their cost. The clauses in question are the so-called "keep-open" covenants included in many lease agreements, which bind the tenant to remaining open for the entire life of the lease.

These covenants started to appear in leases about 30 years ago but caused little concern for retailers in spite of the fact that they knew they were likely to move on before the lease expired.

Steven Fogel, head of property at Tintuus Sainer Decher, says: "It was always thought during the 1980s that companies would never enforce a keep-open covenant but



Shopping mall: "The departure of an anchor tenant like Marks & Spencer can drastically affect the revenues of other retailers"

would require the tenant to pay damages. It was considered almost tantamount to slavery if they did enforce the covenants."

Retailers are constantly involved in re-jigging their property portfolios. The reasons range from the desire to trade from a larger outlet, or move to a better located site, or simply to close down a store that is unprofitable.

Radical changes to company property portfolios have become more common since the start of the 1990s, with rationalisation the name of the game as businesses focus on cost-cutting rather than on expansion.

Historically, tenants have managed to negotiate their way out of leases by agreeing to pay the landlord damages

towards one-stop shopping offering long opening hours and ease of parking. This week Skenley announced the closure of 160 stores and revealed that it was these changes in shopping habits that had resulted in a mismatch between the location of its stores and potential customers.

David Davies, the company's chairman, says: "The position has been exacerbated by the lack of flexibility in relocating branches in the light of standard 25-year leases entered into during the 1970s and 1980s."

Historically, tenants have managed to negotiate their way out of leases by agreeing to pay the landlord damages

in compensation for loss of rental income over the remaining life of the lease. An alternative solution has been to help to find a replacement tenant.

But landlords are starting to try to enforce the covenants.

Ken Wyatt, manager of Safeway's property portfolio, says the supermarket group has ongoing cases in Scotland and in England. In both cases the food retailer wants to close a store but the landlords have taken court action. Often landlords are loath to allow a tenant to quit a store if it is deemed critical to the success of the shopping mall.

The departure of an anchor tenant, such as Marks & Spencer or a food retailer, will reduce footfall in the area and cause a sharp reduction in revenues for other outlets in the mall," says Mark Bradshaw, assistant director (property) at the British Retail Consortium (BRC).

This situation is not necessarily perceived as bad by all

retailers — the smaller ones often support "keep-open" clauses since it means the key magnet store will stay put.

Mr Wyatt says that Safeway is waiting to hear whether it has been granted the right to appeal to the House of Lords against an adverse ruling governing the group's store at the Hillsborough Centre in Sheffield. "This is the first case

in England. It has never happened before. Landlords have always accepted damages. If we lose, the implications will be serious as it could happen to any tenant, large or small, because the law doesn't distinguish between the two," says Mr Wyatt.

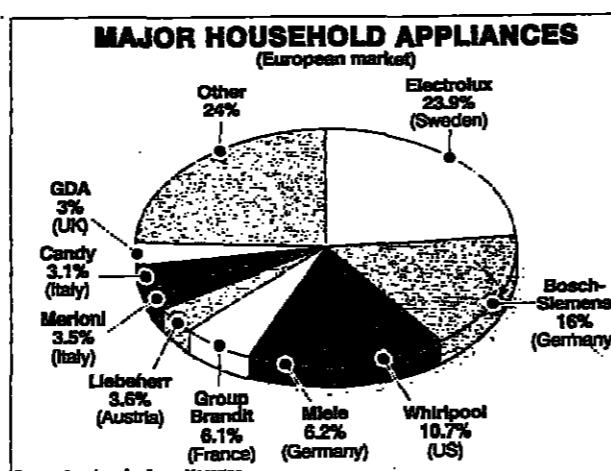
Meanwhile, a separate action in Scotland is due to proceed to the Court of Appeal.

Ironically, the Co-operative Insurance Society Ltd, the landlord of the Sheffield store, is itself a major leaseholder on the high street.

As Mr Fogel says: "You could end up in the ridiculous situation of a retailer competing with itself as it opens a new site in a prime area but has to keep its old store open."

White goods sector faces a chill wind from the East

Ross Tieman and Sarah Cunningham on a push by Asia



top four on the continent in the manufacture of televisions, video cassette recorders and microwave ovens, though its products often carry others' brand names. One in every four microwave ovens sold in Britain comes from Daewoo's plant in Longwy, France, the biggest in Europe.

The company also has a massive plant in Aulnay, Northern Ireland, making video recorders and components, and assembles televisions in France and Poland. Now the company has established a European headquarters in Frankfurt to manage its five factories and 4,000 European employees, and to mastermind its challenge to the European white goods industry.

By setting up local plants, and making smaller machines designed to fit through European doorways, they believe they can make an impact in the white goods sector comparable to that achieved by the Japanese and to a lesser extent Koreans, in televisions and hi-fi — a sector now dominated by manufacturers based in the Far East. Daewoo is already well established in Europe. It is among the

will produce 200,000 machines a year. A washing machine plant has already been established in Poland, with a target of 300,000 machines a year. According to JB Chum, managing director of Daewoo Electronics Europe, "Product development in Europe has been very slow. The reason is that the product is bulky and difficult to transport."

Daewoo now expects to build three or four plants producing washing machines and refrigerators designed or modified to meet the needs of particular national markets.

These plants will be supported by a network of component factories. Daewoo expects to spend \$100 million on a plant to produce compressors for refrigerators and air-conditioning units, \$100 million on an industrial motors plant,

INDUSTRIAL SERVICES

DELTA

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Committed to the growth of highly innovative, quality products on an increasingly international scale.

	1995	1994
Turnover	1018.5	898.6
Profit before interest	63.4	71.3
Profit before tax	53.1	65.1
Earnings per share	20.0p	27.7p
Dividends per share	18.9p*	15.5p

*Final dividend to be paid as a Foreign Income Dividend (FID).

Copies of the Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 30th December 1995, from which the above is an extract, are available from 29th March from the Secretary, Delta plc, 1 Kingsway, London WC2B 6XF. Telephone 0171-836 5353.

CABLES

MEANWHILE, ABN-Amro Hoare Govett is "delighted" to announce that as of June, the seven-strong BZW investment trust team will join its camp. Andrzej Sobczak and Roderick Crawford, whose colleagues helped to bring BZW to market.

COLIN CAMPBELL

THE TIMES LINE: TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Shares close near low of the day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	US	Yield	%	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES								
476	476	476	Alfred Dreyfus	506	17	5.8	18.2	
359	359	359	Balfour Beatty	52	4	2.7	15.2	
567	567	567	Balfour Beatty	52	4	2.7	15.2	
518	518	518	Balfour Beatty	52	4	2.7	15.2	
710	710	710	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
600	600	600	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
261	261	261	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
145	145	145	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
262	262	262	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
146	146	146	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
263	263	263	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
147	147	147	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
264	264	264	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
148	148	148	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
265	265	265	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
149	149	149	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
266	266	266	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
150	150	150	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
267	267	267	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
151	151	151	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
268	268	268	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
152	152	152	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
269	269	269	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
153	153	153	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
270	270	270	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
154	154	154	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
271	271	271	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
155	155	155	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
272	272	272	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
156	156	156	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
273	273	273	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
157	157	157	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
274	274	274	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
158	158	158	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
275	275	275	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
159	159	159	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
276	276	276	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
160	160	160	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
277	277	277	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
161	161	161	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
278	278	278	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
162	162	162	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
279	279	279	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
163	163	163	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
280	280	280	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
164	164	164	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
281	281	281	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
165	165	165	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
282	282	282	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
166	166	166	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
283	283	283	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
167	167	167	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
284	284	284	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
168	168	168	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
285	285	285	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
169	169	169	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
286	286	286	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
170	170	170	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
287	287	287	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
171	171	171	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
288	288	288	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
172	172	172	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
289	289	289	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
173	173	173	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
290	290	290	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
174	174	174	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
291	291	291	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
175	175	175	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
292	292	292	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
176	176	176	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
293	293	293	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
177	177	177	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
294	294	294	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
178	178	178	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
295	295	295	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
179	179	179	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
296	296	296	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
180	180	180	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
297	297	297	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
181	181	181	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
298	298	298	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
182	182	182	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
299	299	299	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
183	183	183	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
300	300	300	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
184	184	184	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
301	301	301	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
185	185	185	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
302	302	302	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
186	186	186	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
303	303	303	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
187	187	187	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
304	304	304	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
188	188	188	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
305	305	305	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
189	189	189	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
306	306	306	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
190	190	190	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
307	307	307	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
191	191	191	Barclaycard	11	1	2.9	16.8	
308	308	308	Barclaycard	11</td				

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 680 6806

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

FAX:
0171 481 9313

JACK/JILL OF ALL TRADES To £30,000
Small but high profile and extremely successful fund managers need versatile Jack/Jill to look after computers, clients & business side initiative, intelligence and an integrated approach on. MSWord, Access.
SNR PARTNERS' SEC To £23,000 + BONUS
Excellent skills, enthusiasm and expert Powerpoint ideal for major sectorial support. 5/land used. W4W's essential.
CITY 0171 377 6777 FAX 0171 377 5079
MIDDLETON JEFFERS RECRUITMENT LIMITED

HR ADMINISTRATOR £18,000-£20,000
An experienced HR person, lots 220-300 is sought to provide and offer administrative support to an important City organization and will be required to work closely with the HR department to cope with considerable pressure, by telephone, written, verbal, face to face, to deal with a range of HR issues, procedures & problems. If this is you call Middleton Jeffers on
W.E. 0171 287 2044 FAX 0171 287 3717
MIDDLETON JEFFERS RECRUITMENT LIMITED

PA in PR Circa £20,000
Would you enjoy working for a high profile law firm with a frank approach and a great sense of humour? You will be required, proactive and committed to do a great job. Happy to hold the brief and manage it from start to finish. You will be asked to do a lot of research, write reports, prepare presentations, etc. What's more you'll be paid and promoted what's going on!
CITY 0171 377 6777 FAX 0171 377 5079
MIDDLETON JEFFERS RECRUITMENT LIMITED

H R ADMIN £16,000 - £18,000
Three of our top City clients are each currently looking for an HR Administrator to balance a range of personnel responsibilities. Key to each client is a different approach, but all require a good attitude, a positive, professional approach. Some office admin/financial experience is preferred. 6/land used. Windows literate.
CITY 0171 377 6777 FAX 0171 377 5079
MIDDLETON JEFFERS RECRUITMENT LIMITED

SENIOR CITY PA £24-26,000 + BONUS + BENS
If you are a meticulous, organized and startier who can keep pace with a busy boardroom, then this could be the job for you. Enjoying a one-on-one role working for a senior City executive needs a PA on whom he can totally rely. You will be required to manage confidential projects and marketing admin will also be part of your day, together with the usual office admin, general correspondence and assistance with a senior PA position. Previous senior level City experience, preferably gained in Corporate Finance, desirable. 100/65 W4W's & Excel
CITY 0171 377 6777 FAX 0171 377 5079
MIDDLETON JEFFERS RECRUITMENT LIMITED

PEARSON PROFESSIONAL PA TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEDIA COMPANY
We are looking for a well organised professional PA to work with one of our Executive Directors at our Head Office. You will be working on your own initiative, organising and managing a range of interesting projects. Excellent personal skills are required to succeed in this position and a flexible approach, together with commitment to a client to become a key member of our Head Office team.
In return we are offering a salary of £19,000 according to age and experience, with other benefits including bonus allowance, 25 days' holiday and contributory pension scheme. Closing date for applications is 10th March.
Please apply with a full CV.
Charlotte Webb, Executive Director, Pearson Professional Ltd, Maple House, 149 Tettenhall Court Road, W10 9LL.

DYNAMIC BRAND PLANNING AGENCY requires SECRETARY
to work as part of a small team. A level standard or above. English perfect, other language useful. Accuracy in all things essential. DTP (Corel & Word) knowledge/experience helpful, but not vital.
CV to: Jill Foster
Expressions Planning Limited
416a King's Road
London SW10 0LJ

QUINTON SCOTT
requires competent well presented secretary with Applemac computer skills. Previous experience in property management, finance or property management (either in property or advertising) dealing with both residential sales and lettings. Salary negotiable.
CV to J King, 50 Wimbleden Hill Road, London, SW19 7PA
Tel: 0181 946 7700

WA £24k + Bonus + Bens
A RARE OPPORTUNITY
This is a prestigious role for a Senior Secretary to work for a dynamic MD of an Investment Bank. Proven experience in Corporate Finance would be preferred, but strong organisational and communication skills are more important. An assertive but friendly individual with first class secretarial skills and the ability to work under pressure is what we are looking for.
0 1 7 1 2 2 5 1 8 8 8
VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

PA to Chairman City to £35,000 plus benefits
Distinguished Chairman of this leading City Financial Institution is seeking a charming and professional PA to organise both the business and personal side of his hectic life. Duties will include constant liaison with clients and other members of staff, meeting coordination and arranging complex itineraries. Essential requirements for this role are current Investment Banking experience and fast shorthand for constant use. Age: 33-45. Skills: 100/60/WP. Please call Claire Ashley for further information on 0171-390 7000.

Crone Corkill Recruitment Consultants

£20,000 Personal Secretary
We are looking for a young businessman with international interests needs a personal secretary/admin to organise this. This is a high profile, multi-faceted role in which you will be called on to understand and meet your client's needs, take charge of the day-to-day running of his office & take on the highest level on his behalf. You will be ultra professional, discreet and enjoy the challenge of coping on your own in a demanding environment where no two days are the same. Middle Eastern experience useful. 50 typing.
RECRUITMENT COMPANY 0171-831-1220 14 GARDEN STREET WEST END

Graduate Secretary Age 22-28 Pkg £20,000+
This is the ideal opportunity for an enthusiastic secretary who is seeking a varied secretarial/administrative position with lots of involvement. Working for this European Bank you will be assisting two Directors and organising a number of your own projects. To accompany the secretarial content of this role you will arrange events such as wine tasting evenings and have lots of client involvement. You should be extremely on the ball, enjoy using your own initiative and capable of working at a senior level. Skills: 45 wpm/Word for Windows. Please call Belinda on 0171-390-7000.

Crone Corkill Recruitment Consultants

Tough at the Top! to £28000 plus banking bens
City stockbrokers have the requirement for a senior level PA to work for the Chief Executive and his deputy. Based on the trading floor, this role is highly demanding and requires excellent use of skills and organisational ability. In addition to the usual PA duties, such as travel and meetings, you will be asked to use your initiative, handling some of your own projects. Current experience in a similar banking role is essential. Hours 8-6pm. Skills: 80/60/WP. Age: 26-40. Please call Kate Hodson on 0171-390 7000 for further details.

Crone Corkill Recruitment Consultants

Dynamic Duo to £23,000 Immediate Start
Entrepreneurial pair of fund managers, both with City pedigrees, each seek an assistant to run their lives. They have a work hard play hard culture where you will have responsibility for preparing presentations, organising corporate entertainment and international travel. You will be used to tight deadlines, probably have City experience and will be professional, organised and outgoing. You! If so and if you have 90/60, good WP skills, age 24-32 and enjoy client contact, please call Durothea de Kock on 0171 434 4512.

Crone Corkill Recruitment Consultants

Mac Whiz Mayfair £20,000
Are you energetic, intelligent, tactful and highly organised? If so, this young, fun, international management consultancy needs you to enhance their dynamic marketing and retail team. They are very busy and want someone who is looking for a new challenge as there is plenty of opportunity to get involved in projects and use your artistic flair. If you enjoy working unsupervised, have good secretarial skills (60wpm) and an excellent knowledge of Applemac, please call Sonia Nair on 0171 434 4512.

Crone Corkill Recruitment Consultants

Secretarial Manager c.£25000 plus benefits
Prestigious City Law firm have an exciting new opportunity for somebody to manage and coordinate a high profile team of five secretaries. This role is very much 'hands on' involving constant liaison with both fee earners and support staff. Duties will include recruitment of new staff, interviewing, testing, appraisals and constant forward planning. Experience in a similar role within a Professional organisation and secretarial skills are essential. Age: 28+. Please call Claire Ashley on 0171-390 7000.

Crone Corkill Recruitment Consultants

INVESTOR RELATIONS PA to 19k + excellent bens
We have a superb opportunity within a top investment bank which will appeal to a team minded, dynamic individual who would enjoy a market analysis role. This position will also involve presentation work, extensive client liaison and the opportunity to use your excellent organisational and secretarial skills as part of a team of high flyers. Please call Lisa Kelly or Monica Coyle.
We also have a wide range of temporary city roles paying up to £12.00 per hour please call Jan Williams.
A division of Graduate Appointments

SECRETARIAL & TEMPORARY APPPOINTMENTS
Tel: 0171 379 6333
Fax: 0171 379 6113
7a Longley Street
London WC2H 9TA

BANKING : STOP PRESS
£15K - Corporate Broking (60wpm shorthand)
Previous Finance/Blue Chip secretarial experience.
Steady CV & Age 18-25 years.
£16K - Emerging Markets (60wpm Typing)
Previous trading floor experience or similar is essential for this secretarial role.
£16K - Credit Risk (60wpm Typing)
Minimum of 6 months secretarial experience is needed for this junior Admin/Secretarial position. The ability to deal with pressure, an excellent telephone manner and a confident personality are also important.
£16K - Chairman's Office (Rush Shorthand at 70/60wpm)
Brilliant opportunity for a junior secretary. Conversational German is essential.
£15K - Legal Admin Secretary (65wpm Typing)
Legal experience would be ideal with strong organisational skills and the desire to be part of a team being a pre-requisite.

TEMPS! TEMPS! TEMPS!
HIGHLY COMPETITIVE RATES
For first class short and long term temporary assignments, including temp to perm situations, Pan European should be your first port of call.

IMMEDIATE SHORTHAND ASSIGNMENTS (Min 90wpm)
• Director's Secretary (Banking) - Temp to Perm
• Trading Floor (Banking) - Temp to Perm
• Junior Secretary (Marketing) - Indef

IMMEDIATE AUDIO ASSIGNMENTS (Min 60wpm)
• Director's Secretary (Solicitors) - Temp to Perm
• Team Secretary (IT) - Indef
• Director's Secretary (Insurance) - 2/4 weeks

PA TO CHIEF EXEC.
For small Trade Assoc. WC2. Must have copy/Audio/MS office, 800-1500, FAX or Post Office, 800-1500, 100-1500. Need flexible team member. Up to £18,000. Call 0171 836 2282. Alfred Works Rec Cens

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT'S WEST LONDON
To join and expanding Medical Agency in Wandsworth. Would suit medically trained person.
Essential:
- Excellent telephone manner
- Computer literate
Salary negotiable.
Call 836 - 8767 or fax CV to: 0181-877-5221

TEAM SECRETARY - CORPORATE LAW
US law firm based in the West End requires a team secretary with at minimum of two years corporate law experience gained either in a major UK/US law firm or within the legal department of a financial institution. You will be working as part of a team and enjoy a varied workload (approx. 50% typing), have excellent Windows skills, preferably with WordPerfect 6.1 and a typing speed of 70 wpm+. A keen eye for detail is essential along with the ability to juggle a number of tasks and still keep smiling. Hours 10 - 6.30. Salary £20,000 plus PPP. Please send your c.v. to Mrs M Dunn, 26A Albemarle Street, London W1X 3PA.

Career Opportunity Manager \$30,000 - \$40,000 pkg
Crone Corkill is London's leading secretarial recruitment consultancy with a proven track-record in a blue chip environment and with exciting plans for the next stage of its development.
We are now looking for a Manager to keep developing a key area of our business and manage an established and successful team of recruitment consultants. A clear commercial eye is essential in order to focus on business opportunities, while the ability to motivate and develop team members is an integral part of the role. This is an excellent opportunity for someone with proven managerial skills and sales experience to further their career with a fast-moving, dynamic company where quality really counts.
If you feel you are ready for this challenge and are keen to contribute and share our continued success we would like to hear from you!
Please telephone Jessica Myers on 0171-377 8827 or fax your CV on 0171-247 0621.

Crone Corkill Recruitment Consultants

PAN EUROPEAN RECRUITMENT
A PRO-ACTIVE PA £20,000 + Bens
Telemekron Software Systems is a rapidly growing systems house. We have made our name designing some of the most advanced dealing systems for the world's pre-eminent investment banks. Established since 1985, we expect to be one of the world's top ten software companies by the year 2000.
Based at our European headquarters in London, we are searching for an intelligent PA with drive, initiative and energy to support two dynamic individuals. You will be a pro-active organiser, keen to get involved and handle everything from complex travel itineraries to preparing presentations and liaising with clients. You will be given plenty of opportunity to take on projects and develop your role. You must be a strong team player and possess excellent computer skills (ProfW98, Powerpoint and Excel).
WA
To apply please call Claire Hawker, at Victoria Wall Associates on 0171 225 1888

PA TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE
A high profile role for a talented senior secretary
South West Surrey
Up to £19,407 pa plus benefits
Waverley Borough Council has a new Chief Executive and already the pace of change is speeding up. Would you enjoy being a key component of her support network?
This is no normal 9-5 secretarial post
It will require flexibility, lateral thinking and initiative. The successful candidate for this challenging and exciting post is likely to be an experienced Senior Secretary or Personal Assistant with proven supervisory skills, who is used to achieving deadlines. The ability to communicate effectively together with a high level of tact and diplomacy is essential.
Based in modern offices at the Council's headquarters in Godalming, the postholder will be an important link between the Chief Executive and a range of local and national organisations as well as the Council's local community.
With the post going to an attractive salary and benefits package, interested?

For further information and application papers, please write to Tracey Gibb, Personnel Officer, Waverley Borough Council, The Bursary, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1HR or telephone our 24 hour answering service on 01483 868383.
Closing Date: 29th March 1996
Interview Date: 17th April 1996
Waverley now has a smoke free work environment

**Ref: PS/COMM/P62
HOUSE OF LORDS**
We have a vacancy for a Personal Secretary to work in the Parliament Office (Committee Office), starting as soon as possible.
The successful candidate, who will have initiative and a high standard of secretarial skills, will be working in an interesting environment in Parliament for senior Officers of the House and for Peers. Salary range is £1,2758 - £17,940 per annum. This includes Recruitment & Retention of Allowance of £1,776 per annum which could change or be withdrawn. Applicants should be educated to GCSE standard or equivalent (including English Language) and have recognised secretarial qualifications. (Shortland 90 wpm minimum, typing 50 wpm minimum). Experience of WordPerfect 5.1 essential.
Further details and an application form available from The Establishment Office, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW (telephone 0171 219 6630 (answering machine).
Completed forms to be returned by 21 March 1996. Interviews to be held at the end of March. If you have not heard from us by the beginning of April you must assume you have not been shortlisted for interview.
No agencies please

LEGAL SECRETARY Circa £17,000 + Benefits
Woodchester Credit Lyonnais plc, a financial services company part of the Crédit Lyonnais Group, is seeking to appoint a Legal Secretary. The position will provide full secretarial support to the Company's Solicitor and the Legal Team and involves substantial copy and audio-typing, liaison with other departments within the Group and regular telephone work.
Applicants must have at least two years secretarial experience within a legal environment, ideally with a bias towards litigation. All candidates should possess speeds of at least 70 wpm typing, 90 wpm shorthand, be fully computer literate and have the organisational skills and enthusiasm to carry out their role effectively. The ability to communicate at all levels and an excellent telephone manner are also essential requirements.
To apply for the above position, please telephone 0171-987-4154 for an application form, quoting reference LS1.
Closing date for applications is 29th March 1996.

WOODCHESTER CREDIT LYONNAIS

London Central YMCA Training and Development
P.A. to Executive Director Ref: HM001
Excellent WP and organisational skills needed. £15,000 circa
Administrator/Secretary Ref: NPO02
To provide administration and secretarial support for our busy Training and Administration teams. £12,000 circa
Course Administrator Ref: HLO03
To deal with the processing and student details. £12,000 circa
Receptionist/Switchboard Ref: RE004
To staff our busy switchboard and reception. £11,000 circa
London Central YMCA operates within the fitness industry, running a range of related training courses. (Package includes free Fitness membership and meals whilst working.)
For full details please telephone 0171 580 2989 ext: 524
Closing date for applications: 29th March 1996

FAIRPLACE CONSULTING SECRETARY SALARY £18000 NEG
Leading City Human Resources company requires energetic, well presented secretary to work at director level.
Brief CV to:
Office Manager
Fairplace Consulting Unit
36-38 Cornhill
London EC3V 3PQ

LIBRARY ASSISTANT up to £17,000 + excellent benefits
Executive Search co. in West End requires an assistant to be in sole charge of updating candidate & company computerised records, monitoring press, filing & generally assisting the Research Dept. Attention to detail, efficiency & good organisational abilities together with excellent typing skills (60wpm) are essential.
Call Janice Davis on 0181 878 0394
Ashley Wharton Davis
Recruitment Specialists

SHORTHAND SECRETARY SW1 To £19,000 FOR PROJECT DIRECTOR
Full involvement offered by international media, publishing, entertainment and financial services plus a team-minded environment. The role involves presentation work, correspondence administration, research and travel co-ordination together with ad hoc duties. Basic income: 25% basic, 25% overtime, consultancy, commission, season ticket loan, medical insurance, subsidised health club and sports and social club. Discount on company owned products. Hours 8-5
Harriet Gabb
recruitment

FAX: 0171 222 2838/TEL: 0171 222 3838

The bottom line is...
Our high flying temp team earn one AIR MILES award for every hour they work.
Join them...
City 0171-390 7000 West End 0171-434 4512
Crone Corkill Temporary Recruitment

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 680 6806

FAX:
0171 481 9313

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

AT THE HUB £20,000 + BENEFITS

This busy, friendly team in Human Resources need someone to join them as secretary to their Director. You will provide highly confidential secretarial support on a 1-1 basis whilst getting involved in team activities. If you are keen to work at the hub of an international company's wheel then what are you waiting for? Typing 60wpm, Word for Windows useful. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

TELEVISION £18,000

A proactive PA is required to give full secretarial and administrative support to the Marketing Director of this International Media company. An ability to work with little supervision, experience of a fast moving environment and bags of enthusiasm all essential. Typing 60wpm. Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CAPITAL CHOICE FOR CITY AND WEST END TEMPS

- Secretaries • Receptionists
- Immediate bookings • Variety of locations
- Hourly pay rates of up to £10; Loyalty Bonus and paid Bank Holidays
- Cross training onto the latest systems

For City assignments call 0171 638 9991.

For West End assignments call 0171 499 0670.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

VICTORIA £18,500 + BANKING BENEFITS

Prestigious Investment Bank would like to meet pro-active secretaries with large company experience, used to a fast paced environment. Team players with strong organisational skills and outgoing personalities a must. Windows experience essential with graphics desirable. Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

1-1 ROLE! £19,000 + BENEFITS

Our client, a successful City operation, is seeking an organised secretary able to liaise at all levels in a 1-1 role on the dealing room floor. The position offers lots of client liaison, extensive travel to organise and the possibility of taking on your own projects in time. Shorthand 80wpm, typing 55wpm. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

TRADING FLOOR SALES ASSISTANT

£18,000 + Bank Bens

Assist a busy team of Stockbrokers on the Trading Floor of a large American Investment Bank. You will be responsible for keeping clients up to date with market movements and need strong admin skills to help co-ordinate the desk. A bright attitude and loads of energy are essential.

Call Sarah Turnbull.

Telephone: 0171 588 8999

Contact Kim St. John if you want to Temp in the City

PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATOR / SEC

£20,000 + Full Bank Bens

Large int'l investment bank needs a professional PA. You will draft correspondence, deal with queries, manage internal vacancies, pensions, life / health schemes, salary reviews, appraisals etc. Must be numerate, articulate and literate.

Aldrich & Co Ltd
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Call Emily Aldrich
Fax: 0171 588 8998

City Secretary to £22,000 + bonus & paid overtime

Outstanding opportunity for an experienced City Secretary to join dynamic Board Management team in their newly refurbished EC4 offices (Investment Bank). A small but highly successful company of around twenty people, your role will encompass working for three/four Managers and will definitely involve hard work and require a commitment in terms of energy, professionalism and attention to detail, plus the ability to use MS Word for Windows and type at 70-80wpm+, audio and Powerpoint also used. Amazing benefits include paid overtime, bonus, free lunch, in-house gym, STI, non-contributory pension, private medical insurance and life assurance.

Susan Doughty Recruitment
99A Curzon Street, London W1Y 7EP.
Tel: 0171-491 7811 Fax: 0171-491 7812.

£25,000 LEGAL WP

Hands on supervisory role looking after a happy little team of 4. In the City of London. If you've worked in Legal or you have some sort of Supervisory exp, they would like to meet you.

Call 0171 256 6666 Lawson Clark

WP/COMPUTER OPERATOR

Personable, computer literate, team player required by small West End office. Duties of client liaison, preparation of payrolls, accounts, management information, etc. Excellent communication with experience in office environments.

Please call: 0171 680 2448.

Secretary, with shorthand skills, required for Bond Street

outfitting gallery. Applicants must be well spoken and of smart appearance. First class references essential.

Telephone Partridge Fine Arts
PLC to arrange an interview:
0171 629 0834.

IF YOU HAVE A LOT TO OFFER, SO HAVE WE ~

SECRETARIAL ASSIGNMENTS IN LEGAL, BANKING AND INSURANCE, UP TO £10 PER HOUR

Creating the perfect match has always been Meridian's key to success. With an extensive range of clients in all sectors we can provide temporary bookings and contracts which suit your skills and needs.

If you have at least one year's experience, 60wpm and a working knowledge of one or more packages, then call Julie on 0171 255 1555

MERIDIAN
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

GLOBAL MARKETS RECRUITMENT

NEW CHALLENGES? temporary/permanent

We require professional people with solid financial experience and good wp skills, to fulfil a variety of Sec/PA roles in the city.

In return, we can offer you a friendly service, the opportunity to work in the top City institutions and the chance to be well rewarded financially.

If you would like to take advantage of these benefits, please call for a confidential discussion either:

Jo Barnes or Rachel Poole on:

0171 776 4705 or 0171 776 4700

Global Markets Recruitment Limited

10 Marine Avenue, London E2 5BT

Fax: 0171 629 4715

CORPORATE PR £20,000 Package

The corporate image of this global Management Consultancy is the responsibility of its dynamic in-house PR department. Your varied role will require you to juggle a workload primarily generated by the two heads of the department. Extensive liaison is required in the organisation of numerous events, conferences and fundraising receptions. You will be relied upon to organise complex travel arrangements and itineraries, enabling all members of this busy team to operate with maximum efficiency. Your excellent secretarial qualifications, including 80 sh/b and 60 wpm typing, will be complimented by your commercial awareness and unshakable disposition. Call now on:

0171-814 0800

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer.

Angela Mortimer

0171 629 9328

DIRECTOR'S SECRETARIES

Bank Chairman - £28,000 +

If you want a challenge, then this is it! Working as PA to one of the City's leading bankers demands a person of exceptional character, judgement and tenacity. Your role embraces both his business and personal interests and is a superb opportunity for a well-qualified communicator with excellent skills. Age 28-32 Skills 110/70.

0171 629 9328

DIRECTOR'S SECRETARIES

SECRETARY/PA HAMPSTEAD

Experienced secretary/PA to work in Architecturally designed Hampstead office for self employed Property Consultant/Lawyer.

Excellent audio typing and computer skills (Apple Mac), reliability, self-sufficiency, a relaxed personality and comfort in a single employer/single secretary environment are essential requirements for this position.

Salary £18,000

Telephone: 0171 431 3467

RECEPTIONIST/FILING CLERK

Two part-time receptionists required, salary £12,000 per annum (pro rata rates 8am - 2pm & 12 noon - 6pm). A minimum of two years experience. A friendly attitude, assisting with enquiries, general duties and filing. Smart professional appearance, together with a good telephone manner are essential.

Please forward CV to Peter Moon,
Universities Superannuation Scheme Ltd,
11th Floor, 1 Angel Court,
London EC2R 7HJ (No Agencies)

INVESTMENT BANKING £20,000 + bens

Demonstrate your skills and use your initiative assisting the MD & 3 Executives of this Docklands based Investment bank. The ideal applicant will have strong organisational skills, a team approach and enjoy the challenge of working in a busy, pressurised environment. 3 years secretarial experience essential. Age 20+. Experience of taking minutes, Powerpoint & Excel skills preferred. If you are interested then please call Janice Pancy on 0171 287 6060.

Janice Pancy

Judy Farquharson Ltd.
INTERNATIONAL MARKETING
CONSULTANCY

needs confident media secretary/assistant to assist two marketing consultants and the office manager. Highly involved role, assisting with editorship of company newsletter and taking on responsibility of general office duties. 50+ typing on Apple Mac. Age 25+ £17,000 + bens. West London

JFL

47 New Bond St, London W1Y 5HA
T 0171 235 1211
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Immediate Temporary Work

PA's / SECRETARIES

Excellent Pay

Holiday Pay

Full Benefits Package

Is this you?

- Well presented.
- Excellent Word for Windows skills.
- Senior level secretarial experience.
- Experience of a banking environment preferable.

Would you like:

- To work in an international environment?
- To face new challenges every day?
- To receive holiday and bank holiday pay and free training?

Telephone Manpower today
on 0171 488 2880.

MANPOWER
There's more for you

The outstanding PA role you have been waiting for.

Personal Assistant to the newly appointed Chief Executive.
Surrey based

Our client is a company whose continuing

growth is one amazing success story after another. In just 10 years this dynamic and innovative company has become one of the UK's leading providers of financial services.

An opportunity currently exists for a professional with several years' top level experience within a blue chip company to fulfil the prestigious role of Personal Assistant to the newly appointed Chief Executive.

To meet the many responsibilities of this demanding role you will need a high level of commercial awareness, together with the ability to communicate confidently at all levels. You will also possess exemplary secretarial skills (including shorthand) and have wide ranging experience in the use of PC based office

In the first instance, please write with full CV including salary details to our acting consultants for this role: Moxon Dolphin Kerby, Ref: 4792, 178 - 202 Great Portland Street, London W1N 4JL.

MONXON-DOLPHIN-KERBY

RECRUITMENT & SELECTION

Executive Secretary and Personal Assistant to the President and Chief Operating Officer

MTI is an industry leader in the development, sale and implementation of international banking software, and integrated trading room systems. With a workforce of 270 people, and a world-wide presence, the company supports over 100 of the world's most highly-rated financial institutions. MTI are a publicly quoted company in North America, although the main management functions are based in London.

The role will be City based, with some travelling anticipated, supporting the President and Chief Operating Officer in all business matters including Board and Shareholder relations. The company makes extensive use of technology internally, and therefore computer literacy is a pre-requisite. The role requires use of Microsoft Office software packages, fast and accurate typing, and good shorthand skills.

The ideal person will already have significant experience of working at main board level and will be able to adapt to the changing priorities that arise - demonstrating initiative, tact, persistence, fortitude and confidence in the role. The successful candidate will relish working to capacity in a dynamic environment and enjoy the challenges that arise. This is a key role within the organisation, and as such will command a salary and benefits package that reflects. MTI are an equal opportunities employer.

For an application form, or an initial discussion please ring Maria Cunningham, Personnel Manager at MTI on 01885 230011

MTI



■ HERITAGE

The cars must go: two top architects present plans to pedestrianise London's squares



■ THEATRE 1

Dawn French and a host of other big names are signed up for a much extended Chichester season



■ THEATRE 2

The Shoe Horn Sonata proves to be a moving story of female courage in the prison camps



■ TOMORROW

Richard Nixon's exploits come to the big screen, but how fair is Oliver Stone's interpretation?

For too long, London has been in thrall to the car. Marcus Binney reports on plans to reclaim the city for the pedestrian

MATTHEW COOK

These beats are made for walking

Londoners will consider the millennium brouhaha to have been worthwhile if it achieves at least one thing: making the capital a more pleasant place to stroll about in. London has been slower to pedestrianise than almost any great city in Europe. Apart from Carnaby Street and Covent Garden, it is mainly a case of "cars come first".

The one recent exception is Leicester Square, now as handsomely paved in large slabs of granite as the streets of Santiago de Compostela. But walk on a few yards to Piccadilly Circus, and pedestrians are once again treated like cattle, herded behind barriers and forced sideways down the Haymarket to allow motorists to take the corner with their foot on the accelerator.

Two of London's leading architects have a bigger vision. Sir Richard Rogers is campaigning for London's squares and Terry Farrell for the royal parks. Rogers has a plan to pave over the road in front of the National Gallery so that it becomes part of Trafalgar Square. Furthermore, he proposes the construction of cafés and restaurants with a view over the fountains.

He goes further. In his vision, Northumberland Avenue would become London's equivalent to Barcelona's famous Ramblas. It is about the same width; all that needs to be done is to create a broad central pavement, serving as a street market, with the traffic contained in two narrower lanes on either side.

The knee-jerk reaction would be to ask: "What about the traffic? Won't we all be stuck in jams for ever more?" The chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission, Lord St John of Fawsley, went ballistic when the traffic layout in front of Buckingham Palace changed. But within a few weeks it was running as smoothly as ever. The reality is that a new, enlightened generation of traffic engineers is thinking again about the one-way systems that infuriate drivers and pedestrians alike.

Imagine you are on your way to the theatre in the Strand, hurrying along the Mall or up Whitehall. Today you

are swept off in a big detour around Trafalgar Square, fighting your way across traffic going eastwards. Often it is virtual gridlock. Atkins, the traffic consultancy, has a simple solution: make the traffic two-way across the south of the square, shorten everyone's journey and free the rest of the square for pedestrians.

If you still have doubts, listen to Atkins's plans for Aldwych. For years, St Mary-le-Strand, one of London's most delightful Baroque churches, has stood marooned on a traffic island, as buses, taxis and cars fight their way across each other. Atkins would simply make the northern arc of the Aldwych two-way and pave over the south as a new square in front of Somerset House.

Westminster councillors are swallowing hard, but they have already carried out the Atkins improvements in front of Charing Cross station. Traffic lanes have been reduced, and it is easier for pedestrians to cross, but traffic still flows smoothly. Now Atkins is proceeding with the Strand.

A wide central reservation is being created, with handsome new lampstands, while selected side streets will be closed.

Farrell's plans for the royal parks have the same radical simplicity. London's foremost pedestrian nightmare is Hyde Park Corner. Walkers are forced, Farrell says, "along sensory-deprived rat runs". He proposes that pedestrians walking up Constitution Hill should have the red-carpet treatment and take the royal route through Wellington Arch and Decimus Burton's elegant screen into Hyde Park. For the humble pedestrian, as for the Queen in her Rolls-Royce, the traffic would stop.

Farrell would do the same at Regent's Park. As we walked up Regent Street and Portland Place, we would no longer be swept off sideways around the private gardens of Park Crescent and Park Square. We would walk straight through the middle, with new priority crossings over Euston Road. Indeed, Farrell would go further — he wants us to walk down St James's Street, through the palace gate and into the Mall.

The City is proceeding with the Strand. The ring of steel thrown up around the City as a defence against terrorist attack shows that it is possible to make radical shifts in traffic without the capital grinding to a halt. Indeed, with security measures again being strengthened, there is excellent reason to pedestrianise many streets permanently. But George Allan, chairman of the City of London Amenity Trust, thinks the City is still failing to take advantage. "The City has no concept of closing down streets," he says. "It has one of the smallest ratios of open space in the capital. The obvious way to increase it is to close streets except for those on foot. Instead, the City remains the ideological home of the rat run."

Farrell's plans for the royal parks have the same radical simplicity. London's foremost pedestrian nightmare is Hyde Park Corner. Walkers are forced, Farrell says, "along sensory-deprived rat runs". He proposes that pedestrians walking up Constitution Hill should have the red-carpet treatment and take the royal route through Wellington Arch and Decimus Burton's elegant screen into Hyde Park. For the humble pedestrian, as for the Queen in her Rolls-Royce, the traffic would stop.

The City is proceeding with the Strand. The ring of steel thrown up around the City as a defence against terrorist attack shows that it is possible to make radical shifts in traffic without the capital grinding to a halt. Indeed, with security measures again being strengthened, there is excellent reason to pedestrianise many streets permanently. But George Allan, chairman of the City of London Amenity Trust, thinks the City is still failing to take advantage. "The City has no concept of closing down streets," he says. "It has one of the smallest ratios of open space in the capital. The obvious way to increase it is to close streets except for those on foot. Instead, the City remains the ideological home of the rat run."

The City has one of the highest pedestrian flows in Britain, but conditions are wretched. To walk across the City, Allan says, from Fleet Street to Fenchurch Street — no more

than a mile apart — is beyond contemplation, because of the miles of railings and constant fumes.

Subconsciously, people have been put off walking in London by the sheer hassle of waiting at lights and crossings, and by being forced into annoying diversions from their chosen route because traffic comes first.

London's priority should be to create a series of pedestrian-first routes criss-crossing the centre.

And more thought needs to be given to details. Curbs have been eliminated at almost every pedestrian crossing to make it easier for pushchairs and prams. The result is a bodge. In Milan, the problem has been resolved by forming a beautiful semicircle of sloping stone at every town-centre crossing.

Rogers won a unanimous show of support at the first *Evening Standard* debate for his proposal to reduce the dominance of traffic in Trafalgar Square and Parliament Square. The question is whether London's politicians have the guts to take these ideas forward at more than a small pace.

• A debate on Pavements, Parks and People will be held at Westminster Central Hall tonight (6.30pm). For tickets, ring 0171-332 370.

available, then large granite slabs should be used. Cheap paving does not last. Witness Bedford Square, where every other paving stone is cracked, and the municipal authority has allowed builders to turn expensively won pedestrian space into Portacabin City.

And more thought needs to be given to details. Curbs have been eliminated at almost every pedestrian crossing to make it easier for pushchairs and prams. The result is a bodge. In Milan, the problem has been resolved by forming a beautiful semicircle of sloping stone at every town-centre crossing.

Rogers won a unanimous show of support at the first *Evening Standard* debate for his proposal to reduce the dominance of traffic in Trafalgar Square and Parliament Square. The question is whether London's politicians have the guts to take these ideas forward at more than a small pace.

• A debate on Pavements, Parks and People will be held at Westminster Central Hall tonight (6.30pm). For tickets, ring 0171-332 370.

The best of both worlds? Richard Rogers would pedestrianise Trafalgar Square up to the National Gallery on the northern side, with two-way traffic to the south

of the ring of steel. The ring of steel should be used. Cheap paving does not last. Witness Bedford Square, where every other paving stone is cracked, and the municipal authority has allowed builders to turn expensively won pedestrian space into Portacabin City.

And more thought needs to be given to details. Curbs have been eliminated at almost every pedestrian crossing to make it easier for pushchairs and prams. The result is a bodge. In Milan, the problem has been resolved by forming a beautiful semicircle of sloping stone at every town-centre crossing.

Rogers won a unanimous show of support at the first *Evening Standard* debate for his proposal to reduce the dominance of traffic in Trafalgar Square and Parliament Square. The question is whether London's politicians have the guts to take these ideas forward at more than a small pace.

• A debate on Pavements, Parks and People will be held at Westminster Central Hall tonight (6.30pm). For tickets, ring 0171-332 370.

The ring of steel thrown up around the City as a defence against terrorist attack shows that it is possible to make radical shifts in traffic without the capital grinding to a halt. Indeed, with security measures again being strengthened, there is excellent reason to pedestrianise many streets permanently. But George Allan, chairman of the City of London Amenity Trust, thinks the City is still failing to take advantage. "The City has no concept of closing down streets," he says. "It has one of the smallest ratios of open space in the capital. The obvious way to increase it is to close streets except for those on foot. Instead, the City remains the ideological home of the rat run."

The City has one of the highest pedestrian flows in Britain, but conditions are wretched. To walk across the City, Allan says, from Fleet Street to Fenchurch Street — no more

than a mile apart — is beyond contemplation, because of the miles of railings and constant fumes.

Subconsciously, people have been put off walking in London by the sheer hassle of waiting at lights and crossings, and by being forced into annoying diversions from their chosen route because traffic comes first.

London's priority should be to create a series of pedestrian-first routes criss-crossing the centre.

And more thought needs to be given to details. Curbs have been eliminated at almost every pedestrian crossing to make it easier for pushchairs and prams. The result is a bodge. In Milan, the problem has been resolved by forming a beautiful semicircle of sloping stone at every town-centre crossing.

Rogers won a unanimous show of support at the first *Evening Standard* debate for his proposal to reduce the dominance of traffic in Trafalgar Square and Parliament Square. The question is whether London's politicians have the guts to take these ideas forward at more than a small pace.

• A debate on Pavements, Parks and People will be held at Westminster Central Hall tonight (6.30pm). For tickets, ring 0171-332 370.

The ring of steel thrown up around the City as a defence against terrorist attack shows that it is possible to make radical shifts in traffic without the capital grinding to a halt. Indeed, with security measures again being strengthened, there is excellent reason to pedestrianise many streets permanently. But George Allan, chairman of the City of London Amenity Trust, thinks the City is still failing to take advantage. "The City has no concept of closing down streets," he says. "It has one of the smallest ratios of open space in the capital. The obvious way to increase it is to close streets except for those on foot. Instead, the City remains the ideological home of the rat run."

The City has one of the highest pedestrian flows in Britain, but conditions are wretched. To walk across the City, Allan says, from Fleet Street to Fenchurch Street — no more

than a mile apart — is beyond contemplation, because of the miles of railings and constant fumes.

Subconsciously, people have been put off walking in London by the sheer hassle of waiting at lights and crossings, and by being forced into annoying diversions from their chosen route because traffic comes first.

London's priority should be to create a series of pedestrian-first routes criss-crossing the centre.

And more thought needs to be given to details. Curbs have been eliminated at almost every pedestrian crossing to make it easier for pushchairs and prams. The result is a bodge. In Milan, the problem has been resolved by forming a beautiful semicircle of sloping stone at every town-centre crossing.

Rogers won a unanimous show of support at the first *Evening Standard* debate for his proposal to reduce the dominance of traffic in Trafalgar Square and Parliament Square. The question is whether London's politicians have the guts to take these ideas forward at more than a small pace.

• A debate on Pavements, Parks and People will be held at Westminster Central Hall tonight (6.30pm). For tickets, ring 0171-332 370.

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on a moving tale in a Japanese prison camp; and brave ambitions in Sussex

Saving our Sheila

Some plays that make a conscious grab for your heartstrings make your heartstrings want to repel their advances with a forthright ping. But John Misto's assault succeeds, for several good reasons. He has clearly done plenty of impassioned yet careful research into the sufferings of his fellow Australians in Japanese prison camps; and his director, Dan Crawford, has cast the formidable Maggie Kirkpatrick alongside Susannah York as a magnificently doughty survivor. Presented with authenticity here, you readily forgive the emotional calculation and the contrivances of plot elsewhere.

Black-and-white photos, keeping you abreast of the fall of Singapore and its aftermath, play on to the wall of a contemporary hotel room, flanked by a television studio. Here come Kirkpatrick's Bridie, an Aussie nurse in 1942, and York's Sheila, the English girl who helped to keep alive in a series of awful internment camps. In between perching on chairs to tell a pushy interviewer their story, the two ageing women awkwardly engineer what seems to be their own first meeting in 50 years. The question you are meant to ask is: why did people so close drift so far apart that not as much as a postcard has winged from Melbourne to Fremantle, where they respectively live?

Misto's answer to that may strike you as owing less to truth than to high drama.



The Shoe Horn Sonata
King's Head, N1

When Bridie caught cerebral malaria, Sheila bought her quinine by offering her body to a sadistic guard, pretending afterwards that she simply borrowed Bridie's prize possession, a shoe horn, for the life-saving drug. Rather than break this shocking secret to her friend, Sheila then made an embarrassed English exit from her life. But is it askable that two women who had looked human evil in the eyes every day for three years would read so conventionally to an act of unconventional generosity, even in 1945?

If you share my doubt, you will find a hole near the plot's centre and, as a result, some spurious about the play's upbeat denouement. There are other worries too.

Though I am English and biased, the constant fun at the expense of upright Poms ventures too near cliché for my taste. The sort of colonial who thinks that the proper response to disaster is to say

A coup for Chichester

Ever since Laurence Olivier's National Theatre Company left its temporary home in Chichester 30 years ago, the cognoscenti have tended to see the place as Mrs Tiggwinkle's cottage re-cast in concrete. That has sometimes been folly, for the Festival Theatre has regularly proved its power to attract top performers: Donald Sinden in Ibsen's *Enemy of the People*; Eileen Atkins as Elizabeth I in *Vivat, Vivat Regina!*; Alan Bates as the gay Habsworth officer in Osborne's *Patrol for Me*, among a good many others.

All the same, the slur is not wholly unearned. Traditionalist audiences and the lack of so much as a penny in subsidy have combined to give a cautious, cathedral-close feel to the theatre's programming. Any director who tried anything recherche or financially ambitious in schloss Tiggwinkle soon learnt his lesson, as Michael Rudman did by losing his job four years ago.

But the arrival of Duncan Weldon and Derek Jacobi as co-directors last year brought changes that are to accelerate this year. In 1995 Lauren Bacall came from her Hollywood paradise with a performance of the zillionaire in Durrenmatt's *Visit* that extended the normal summer season deep into October. In 1996 Weldon, who has assumed sole control, with Jacobi as associate director, is getting still closer to his target, which is to take Chichester into the post-Tiggwinkle era and run high-powered rep there all year round.

Try these for artistic size. Alan Bates in Simon Gray's new play, a sequel to *Otherwise Engaged* called *Simply*

— and, no, the year's festivities are still not complete.

Weldon is still negotiating with the actors he wants to perform in the next five main-stage offerings: *Much Ado, Coward's Hay Fever, Lilian Hellman's Little Foxes, Maugham's Our Betters, Bernard Miles's Lock Up Your Daughters*. But some enticing names are in prospect for the remainder of a season that will now stretch into December, after which the theatre closes for a £300,000 refit. Who knows, before long there may be a permanent company in place for the summer season, as in Olivier's day, while *ad hoc* casting prevails at other times.

One of Weldon's hopes is to make the theatre more enterprising, more self-sufficient, less reliant on whatever tours turn up during winter months that currently lose it money. Another is to get lottery funds for a £12 million redevelopment that will bring the site a movie theatre, rehearsal rooms, offices, new restaurants, perhaps even a television studio.

And that's only what will run from May to October in Chichester's studio-theatre, the Minerva. Proceedings on the main stage begin on April 29 with Congreve's *Love for Love*, starring Jacobi as the half-witted beau Tattle, and continue with the version of Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*, adapted by Willis Hall and directed by Michael Rudman, that was a huge success in Sheffield recently.

Add Peter Ustinov as the rumpled title-character in his own *Beethoven's Tenth*, Leo McKern and Dawn French in Priestley's *When We Are Married*, and Bates as an archetypal Russian loser in Turgenev's *Woe and Wherefore*. Hobson's *Hothouse* to the West End. It does not sound, does it, as if Mrs Tiggwinkle is riding high.

THE recordings of the Bulgarian State Television Female Choir — better known under the more evocative title "Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares" — have been liberally marketed to appeal to a wide range of music lovers. And there can be no doubt about that appeal: the Festival Hall was full to capacity, and with a markedly younger audience than usual at a "straight" concert of classical music.

The choir itself is superb, disciplined down to its collective bows. The virtuoso arrangements of folk music from the distinctive regions of Bulgaria demand such precision: multi-voiced and often highly dissonant textures require absolute accuracy of intonation and complex word-patterning calls for tight ensemble. In all this the Bulgarian singers, under the direction of their artistic director Dora Hristova, excelled. They also sang with utter conviction, although their highly polished approach sometimes lacked spontaneity.

Apart from the distinctive nasal timbre and the ready vocal quality that results, the most striking feature is the diversity of musical styles within a single nation's folk traditions. Intense dissidence is often offset by bare fifths or a simple drone; choral-like passages are juxtaposed with highly embellished muezzin-style chanting. The soloists capable of seemingly endless roulettes. The songs, presented as a cycle on *A Woman's Life* (pace Schumann), were equally varied in theme and tone, from dreamy love songs to rousing dances designed to make a monk forget his vows. It was all terrific, and the audience lapped it up.

Some of the arrangements veered towards the schmaltz, the jazzy, even barbershop; but for me the most effective and compelling pieces were the simplest, the least sophisticated and truest to their modal structure. It is there that the true sense of mystery lies.

TESS KNIGHTON



■ VISUAL ART
Recycling in all its glory: the Craft Council sets out to prove that waste can be beautiful



■ YOUNG ARTS
How the Oily Cart Company reached out to children with profound learning problems

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ JAZZ
From elegant jams to Bartók: Chick Corea reveals his eclectic virtuosity at the Barbican



■ OFFER
Special prices on Sheila Hancock in Nigel Williams's new play: see the Theatre Club panel

The ultimate in throwaway lines

Teabag handbags, a cloak made of cans: craft's latest movement is towards recycling. Alison Beckett reports

Recycling is the new buzzword in the craft world. Old tea bags, empty bottles, beer cans and chewed toothbrushes have been commandeered for an exhibition held by the Craft Council to prove that waste can be beautiful.

The idea of using everyday objects in an alternative way as a work of art has been growing since Marcel Duchamp exhibited a readymade bottle rack in 1913, and later a urinal. Now ecological concerns (including a European Union Directive that 50 per cent of domestic waste be recycled by the year 2000) and poverty among artist-craftsmen has given the movement fresh impetus.

The exhibition features the work of 27 designers whose inspiration comes mostly from the home. Clare Goddard realised teabags could make more than a quick cuppa after spotting the marbling effect on one that had dried out. So she began turning them into elegant handbags.

The effect, she discovered, varies according to the paper used, the amount of leaves, the size of the bag and whether it has been hung, ironed or left sweating in a tin.

Most items are intended to be useful, especially lighting. But how Deborah Thomas managed to assemble her *Northern Fleet Chandelier* without hospitalisation is a mystery. The chandelier, worthy of a fairytale ballroom, is composed of thousands of shards of glass collected from overflowing bottle banks, smashed by Thomas and wired back together again.

Recycling whole objects is simpler but more bizarre, like Michael Marriott's *Juicy Lucy* glass wall light, which used to be a lemon squeezer. Sophie Chandler saved attractive blue bottles of fizzy water for her *DIY Chandelier* and Tejo Remy a dozen empty milk bottles for a hanging lamp. Remy has dubbed this style Robinson Crusoe – designing your own paradise with what-

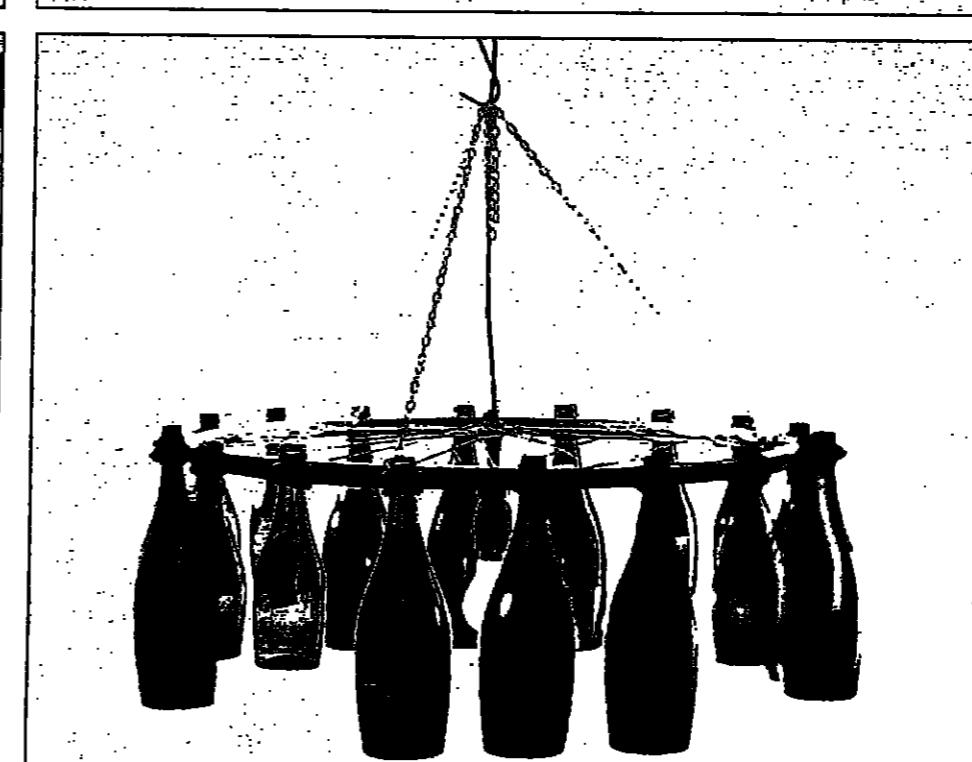
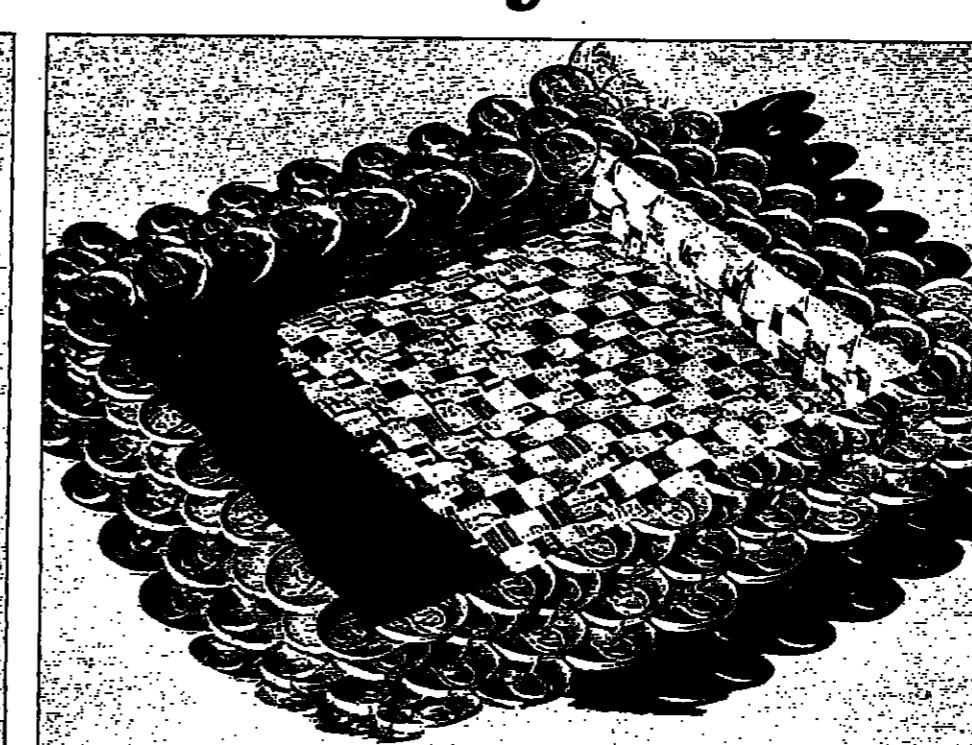


Proving that one man's dustbin fodder is another's potentially attractive raw material: a fruit bowl made from beer cans by Lois Walpole.

ever is available – and it is curiously successful. The ingenious re-use of aluminium drinking cans includes Jeremy Dent's *Can Slab Bench*, made by crushing cans together to form new building material. Val Hunt's *Cap and Geometric Necklace* began as Guinness and lager cans, while Joanne Tinker amassed a hoard of brightly coloured drinks cans to cut into more than 2,500 pieces and create a shimmering cloak.

Jessica Briggs's jewelled necklaces turn out to be cleverly juxtaposed glass buttons, a refined version of her favourite childhood game – devoting into a button tin for treasure. More surprisingly, the chief component of goldsmith Bridget Turba's bracelets are toothbrushes, which she cuts and polishes to look like precious stones.

The absence of fear of expensive failure encourages bold experiment. The *Spring Planting Chair* devised by Kristy Wyatt Smith, who trained as an illustrator, is an amusingly naive throne with moving figures. But its construction is ingenious: it is made out of discarded wood and metal shapes cut from cans thrown out with the rubbish by restaurateurs. Lucy Casson is similarly



(clockwise from top left) cap and geometric necklace made from lager cans by Val Hunt; a fruit bowl made from beer cans by Lois Walpole; a hanging lamp made from blue glass bottles by Sophie Chandler; a tire chair and milk bottle light by Tejo Remy

daring with her sculpture *Fierce Animals* – metal beasts formed out of lighter fuel cans, all leaping out of a vase on stems like Bird of Paradise flowers, and relying on their exotic impact to disguise the fact that the container is really a battered gas water heater.

One of the oldest forms of recycling is quilting. Traditionally, patchwork quilts were made from scraps of material rescued from worn-

out garments and sewn together to form intricate patterns or pictures.

Michele Walker has brought about a more contemporary look, albeit as attractive wall hangings rather than bedspreads, by working with growbags, frozen food packaging, photocopies and dustbin liners (already recycled, naturally).

But the biggest challenge to preconception is Thomas Dix-

on's *Driving Seat*, which he has produced in a small edition. In their former incarnation the seats were traffic bollards, made of a type of plastic which has no scrap value at all.

But then, maybe it is possible to change base metal into gold.

■ Recycling is at the Craft Council, 44a Pentonville Road, Islington, London N1 (0171-278 7700), until April 21.

Chick Corea
Barbican

Davis alumnus, saxophonist Bob Berg.

For the concert's first half, Corea promised to provide "a varied programme which evolved out of jamming", and after tripping lightly through his own *Humpy Dumpty*, a neat but lively theme with a surprisingly hard edge, he proceeded to do just that. *Monk's Mood* was suitably chunky, packed with both its composer's trademarks – oddly displaced accents, startling juxtapositions of clutter and space – and its interpreter: rippling runs imbued with an almost playful lyricism. *That Old Feeling* featured another intriguing arrangement, its melody carried alternately by tenor and bass. Corea's sparkling solo work beautifully complemented by Novak's brisk drumming. Berg's tenor swirling through the familiar changes.

It was two Bartók Bagatelles, however, which most closely conformed with Corea's artistic aims. To the pieces' dignity, grace and harmonic subtlety, the Acoustic Band brought not only a stately swing but also – through Berg – an affecting, keening quality faintly reminiscent of Jan Garbarek. Even Corea's own compositions could not quite match the Bartók, either for delicacy or intensity. On this occasion, thanks to a superb band as much as to his own musical eloquence, Corea's object of beauty was attained.

CHRIS PARKER

THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS

Royal Court Theatre

March 21-23, 26, 28

■ THEATRE PRODUCER Ray Goodenough is not having a good day. The star guest for his talk show has pulled out, his host takes up residence in every pub he passes, and his assistant calls her mother 20 times a day. What happens next is the subject of *Harry and Me*, starring Ron Cook, Sheila Hancock and Dudley Sutton, and written by Nigel Williams, author of *Class Enemy* and *Sugar and Spice*. Theatre Club members can save 25 per cent on top-priced tickets (normally £15). Tel 0171-730 1745 to book.

Royal Opera House

April 6

■ TWO tickets for the price of one. £12.50 for children under 18 (normally £18), to see the 2pm performance of the Royal Ballet's production of Adolphe Adam's *Giselle*. Sensitively staged by Peter Wright, and with designs by John F. Macfarlane, this production captures both the rustic and the supernatural aspects of this well-loved Romantic work. Tel 0171-730 1745 to book.

Cambridge

May 3-5

■ THERE are still a few places left for the Theatre Club's opera weekend in Cambridge. The price – £192 per person – includes two nights' dinner, bed and breakfast accommodation, tickets to English Touring Opera's performances of *Rigoletto* and *Wotan* – and a punt on the river. For more details and to book, tel 01223 351241.

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

ON TOUR

■ TWO tickets for the price of one. £12.50 for children under 18 (normally £18), to see *Delicate* – an exciting collaboration between Motorhouse Dance Theatre Company and the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group – on tour.

Coventry, Warwick Arts Centre, March 14. Tickets normally £7.95 to £10.50. Tel 01203 524524

London, Queen Elizabeth Hall, March 30. Normally £7.50 to £10.50. Tel 0171-9604342

Northampton, Royal Theatre, April 2. Normally £6 to £10. Tel 01604 32333

Leicester, Phoenix Arts, April 25. Normally £7.50. Tel 0116-255 4854

Wakefield, Theatre Royal & Opera House, May 3, 4. Normally £4.50 to £8.50. Tel 01924 366358

Cambridge, The Junction, May 15. Normally £8. Tel 01223 412600

Birmingham, Adrian Boult Hall, June 3. Normally £8.50. Tel 0121-605 6666

Hilary Finch on a company that reaches children with learning difficulties

Tickled pink and perky

What is *Tickled Pink*? It is a state of being. It can be a swing in a hammock, a waft of air from a fan or down the bore of a clarinet; the scent of a rose petal, or the touch of velvet. But it has to be pink. It's a drama, but there's no story. Only characters: Rose, who likes to touch; Blush, who is obsessed by smell; Blossom, who sings, and Pinky, who is well, obsessed by the colour pink.

This is theatre by, with and for children with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD); and it started with Punch and Judy. Dave Bennett was the musician out front and Tim Webb the puppeteer. Webb had been running a "rugged and robust street show"; then it struck him that this wasn't really what four-year-old children wanted for their birthday parties. He spent £40 on setting up a show about a tree and all the animals who live in it, and before long it was hot property in nurseries and playgroups. He called his company Oily Cart after the Renault van in which the props were packed. For 15 years, Oily Cart has been touring three new shows a year.

For the past seven years one of the shows has been for children with severe learning difficulties. "Our challenge has always been to identify a particular audience and work on what would interest and stimulate them," Webb says. "And I saw in my travels that certain barriers were not yet being broken through..." *Tickled Pink* is the first ever show for children with PMLD. The new need – and the identifying label – came



Oily Cart "believe the human element is all-important"

about as an increasing number of education authorities integrated more able students into mainstream schools, creating a narrowing ability range in special schools.

It all meant another challenge for Oily Cart. Two factors emerged in Webb's research: "We believe the human element is all-important in what must be an entirely interactive approach. Where it's not appropriate for the 'drama' to be plot-led, character is central. So we stay in character throughout. And each one is clearly delineated through the senses. It's a visceral, rather than a narrative approach, if you like. Each of our characters is sense-obsessed."

Oily Cart sets up a pavilion of hanging tents and marquees, enclosed and secure spaces saturated in colour (hollyhock pink, candy-floss pink, periwinkle and flamingo pink), and heaped with soft

scented pillows and rugs. Outside, from three "parasols of pleasure", dangle any number of bells, gongs and cymbals, all wrapped and plaited in sensuous fabrics. And all Pink.

The four members of Webb's team look like travellers on the Silk Road, merchants from Samarkand. With rings on their fingers and bells on their toes, they ensure that music accompanies the children wherever they go.

They wait for the school buses to arrive; play the stu-

dents into school; encourage them to touch and sound out the parasols. It may be only the brush of a velvet-covered bell against a cheek; it could, in the case of a more able child, be a matter of preventing a meal being eaten out of a Chinese gong bowl. Then the students are led into the silk tents, rocked in hammocks, fanned by pink punkah walahs as a distant marimba sounds. Singing is individually focused: names and senses are identified and sung out.

Five-year-old Ahmed, who has been running round all morning, attempting to destroy everything in sight, is suddenly pacified. He has responded to the repeated non-verbal cue of a clarinet; he is, for once, in control, rather than being controlled. Tina, whose autistic tendencies cause her to look at another person only reluctantly and sideways on, is beaming full in the face of Blossom and the breeze of her pink fan.

Sarah Melman, senior teacher at Fulham's Jack Tizard School, has been working with children with severe learning difficulties for 19 years. She admits that she had never before met a theatre group who could meet the needs of every child in her school, from three to 19 years old. "It's something to do with the combination of people in their team, their endless research, their strong focus on colour, and the way in which they give the children time to respond," she says. "Oily Cart has touched children for whom I'd begun to think there might be no way through."

■ *Oily Cart*, 209 Welsbach House, The Business Village, Broomhill Road, London SW8 4JQ (0181-377 0743)

Nationalism echoes country sounds

This is the third of our complementary CDs, brought to you by The Times, in association with Classics Direct. Nationalism began to establish itself as a movement about the middle of the 19th century when composers became eager for their music to embody elements that proclaimed its nationality. They incorporated folk melodies or dancing rhythms in work that asserted national traditions. Dvorak was one of the earliest composers of such music and his *Slavonic Dances* as well as Berwald's *Singuliere* and Franck's symphony in D minor are due to be released in this country by The Royal Philharmonic later this year, so *Times* readers can hear them first.

NATIONALISM TRACK LISTING

1. Franck symphony in D minor. Conductor: Raymond Leppard (91.19);
2. Dvorak symphony No 9 in E minor *New World*. Conductor: Paavo Järvi (11.12); 3. Dvorak *Slavonic Dances*. Conductor: Douglas Bostock (7.27);
4. Berwald Symphony No 3 in C major *Singuliere*. Conductor: Ivor Bolton (9.39); 5. Grieg piano concerto in A minor. Conductor: James Judd; piano: Ronald O'Hara (10.21); 6. Grieg *Pearl Gyrn* suite No 1 in *The Hall of the Mountain King*. Conductor: Mark Ermler (2.29). The CD has a total playing time of 60.21.

Offer closes April 8, 1996 and is subject to availability.

Send me _____ (qty) Nationalism CD (TIM103)

Send me _____ (qty) The Romantics CD (TIM102)

Send me _____ (qty) Baroque and Classical CD (TIM101)

I enclose a cheque/PO for £1.98 per CD. Make cheques payable to CD Ltd. Write your name, address and cheque card number on the back of cheques. Allow 28 days for delivery.

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____ Initials _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Day Tel _____

Credit Card Payment

Card number: _____

Expiry date: _____

Mastercard/Access _____ Visa _____

Name on card _____

Signature _____

Supply address of registered cardholder on a separate sheet of paper if different from that above

Send to: The Times Classical Collection, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE55 1OF

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive further offers from The Times or associated companies

1TBCC1

HOW TO BOOK – AND JOIN

TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage.

TO JOIN the Theatre Club, either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to 'The Theatre Club', P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8JL, or telephone 01206 791737 using 2164. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673.



YOUNG
AT
art

Rachel Kelly finds out how the rising number of divorces is bolstering certain sectors of the slack housing market

One sale, two purchases

The Prince and Princess of Wales's decision this month to agree to divorce has caused the property market to slacken. Divorce drives the property market. When the rich divorce, they usually sell the family home, divide the proceeds and set up two new homes. That means one sale, and two purchases: three welcome commissions in a slack market.

Of course, the Wales's case is exceptional. Kensington Palace is not going to be flogged, nor is the Prince of Wales likely to buy a new house. But the Princess might. Unless she buys privately, some agent somewhere will make a handsome commission.

In a market in which the number of annual sales has fallen from two million to one million a year, according to Central Statistical Office figures, divorce guarantees valuable business. The happily married decide to stay put rather than sell at a loss.

The numbers are going estate agents' way. One in three couples, having jointly bought a home, ends up

divorced or splitting up. Wealthy divorcees also feed the rental market. Penny Parr-Head, director of the London agent Cluttons Residential Lettings, says that often the husband moves out, leaving the woman and children in the family home.

Such men should take care with their tax arrangements. Principal private residences are free from capital gains tax on any disposal. But beware: if one partner has moved out of the home and has been out for some time, he may have trouble arguing, in order to avoid CGT on his share of the proceeds, that it is still his main abode.

Ms Parr-Head says: "The increase in the divorce rates has affected the rental market more in terms of demand than of supply. The average rental for this type of person is £350 a week. They will either rent for six months or a year. At the end, they tend to buy, or in some cases actually return to the marital home."

For those on lower incomes, especially for those with children, the process is more difficult. The value of their assets

may not be enough to equal the cost of two new homes. The result usually is that the wife stays in the family home and the husband moves out.

Courts sometimes decide on a division of assets but allow the husband a deferred interest. He is entitled to a share of the proceeds of selling the family home, but the sale is deferred, probably until the children have finished their education.

Other couples cannot afford to move at all if the mortgage is greater than the house's worth. What was once their castle has become their prison.

Whether rich or poor, at every stage of buying or renting new property all divorced couples must resolve similar dilemmas. The most obvious is: who will be responsible for selling the house?

The courts usually help couples to decide. Agents act after a court settlement, which will have decided which party has been given the conduct of the sale, although some couples won't apply for a divorce until after a sale so they can work out the proceeds.

Young children are the courts' chief concern. They need a home, which is usually (though not necessarily) with the mother. She tends to end up staying in the house and therefore handling the sale.

That proved the case for James Smith and his wife, who after 30 years of marriage decided last year to divorce. They have three children, aged 26, 25, and 21, and jointly own a 16th-century Suffolk timbered house worth just under £300,000.

Mr Smith says: "My wife is handling the sale, and keeps me in touch. It's important the house is lived in, and my wife keeps the house nice and clean and tidy with fresh flowers. I would advise other couples that you should be careful if a woman is selling the house on her own. We have a system of appointments verified by

agents. There is no room for casual appointments."

A second question is whether the couple own the house as joint tenants or tenants in common. With the former either party's half-share goes to the other on death. But with the latter, each partner separately owns, and can dispose of, his or her share. Many divorcees arrange to change tenancies in common.

The actual sale can bring problems. Some couples agree that neither wants to build a

new relationship in a house with bad memories, and decide to make a fresh start. But some disgruntled partners have been known to scotch a sale by referring to "the pig farm down the road". John Gibson of Savills describes a case in which a partner instructed another company to put the property on the market for £100,000 more than the asking price set by the original agent. The partner feared the original estate agent had undervalued, and the agents

ended up in court defending their valuations.

Others are miserable at selling the one place in which they find solace. William Edwards, a surveyor, and his wife Susan had been married for a year before they decided to divorce. At the time, they had no children and were living in Hampstead, north London. They had taken out a joint mortgage on a two-bedroom flat when they decided to split permanently.

Mr Edwards recalls: "The

whole process of separating, dividing the possessions and selling our flat was one of the most stressful of my life. It was miserable to be selling just as I felt like licking my wounds in the privacy of my own home."

A house's sales appeal is not helped by the fact of a failed relationship. In a fragile market, mere mention of divorce may be enough to put off a buyer who worries that one party will pull out of the deal. Giles Hoskins of Winkworth estate agents says that many sales

fall through because of legal technicalities. Kevin Bury-Gray of Alex Neil, a Docklands agent, adds that sales are delayed because of the need to talk to two lots of solicitors on the sellers' side.

Sales can drag on. In a boom, the house can be sold in a matter of weeks. Not so in a slump, when the emotional torment of staying in a house full of unhappy memories or with an estranged partner can last for months.

• Some names have been changed



Twice-divorced Liz McCallum and Liberty, her daughter: "My advice would be not to over-extend yourself"

SELLING THE FAMILY HOME

THE London estate agent Chesterfield offers the following advice:

- Give yourselves plenty of time and be prepared to rent houses to bridge the gap if you cannot find anything immediately suitable. Do not make rash decisions in a desperate attempt to be settled.
- Appoint a solicitor to deal with the sale if the parties are not speaking to each other. Acrimonious couples who deny agents and potential buyers the opportunity to view the house to spite the other half

hold up the sale and make it difficult for the agent.

- Decide what price you want for the house and know what price you are both prepared to accept as the bottom line. Couples who quibble about accepting offers can irritate buyers into pulling out.
- Be honest and tell your estate agent the reason for the sale. Splitting up could help a purchase because people realise that there is a genuine reason for the sale.
- If you have children, sell during term time and move in the holidays.

Play away in the Caribbean

Rachel Kelly
reports on the
luxury homes
by a new golf
course in
Barbados



"The Begonia", one of the more luxurious houses in the Westmoreland development, was designed by Ian Morrison

It is, golfers joke, a fair way to go. But the Royal Westmoreland golf course and its surrounding homes in Barbados are proving a magnet for wealthy British buyers.

More than 30 homes around the 27-hole course, designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr, have already been sold, at prices of between £275,000 and more than £8 million.

The £350-million 480-acre scheme for 290 homes is the brainchild of the Rooney family. The main investor is William Rooney, a Yorkshire businessman who made his fortune in Spring Ram, a fitted kitchens company. His son Julian is the golf club's managing director.

Mr Rooney says: "The reason that people are buying here is because they know who their neighbours are and there are no public roads crossing the course." (A disadvantage, he might have added, of Royal Westmoreland's main rival, the Sandy Lane golf course on the west coast of the island.)

The entrance to the club, a mile up the hill from the sea, is guarded by an attendant in a starched uniform. Newly planted tropical flowers and acres of golfing green stretch ahead. Several Sandy Lane courses are set in former coral quarries.

Membership costs an initial £11,000 to join plus £2,300 a year, and is restricted to homeowners and their families, with 120 members drawn from Barbados and honorary members, including Sir Gary Sobers. Ten hotels have negotiated rights for their guests to play at the club. One is the Colony Club, part of the St James Beach group of hotels.

The houses have views of the fairways and the azure

Caribbean beyond, with pride of place given to the clubhouse with its soaring roof covered in white sailcloth. A sports centre encircling a 25-metre swimming pool is being built.

There are four main categories of houses. Thirty terraced villas, with two and three bedrooms, split-level living areas and views of the course and the sea, are priced from around £275,000; the four-bedroom plantation homes resemble colonial mansions and cost from £380,000; and the detached courtyard villas set in quarter-acre plots with pools start at £420,000. Finally, some of the larger detached homes, costing from £75,000, are set in half-acre plots, with a "media" room wired for telephone, fax and computer.

The houses were designed by two architects, Ian Morrison is behind many successful hotel projects in the West Indies, including the nearby Colony Club and Royal Pavilion. His signature houses are light and airy, using local coral stone. Inside the houses have shell stone floors, wall lights and quoins in the local stone. The ceilings are made of flaked whitewash.

The second architect is Larry Warren. His smart, colonial-style houses have vaulted roofs and use the same

coral and shell stone and pickled pine.

The aim is to attract captains of industry, Mr Rooney says. A typical buyer is 55, a businessman who may recently have floated a company, with a passion for golf. Buyers do not have to pay the 10 per

cent property purchase tax, and the company can help with local mortgages for up to 50 per cent of the price.

Most buyers will probably spend only two or three months a year at Royal Westmoreland, letting the houses for the remainder. The com-

pany claims healthy rental incomes of around 4.85 per cent a year on the basis of 24 weeks a year, taking all outgoings into account, including staff. Royal Westmoreland staff will oversee and organise such rentals. For a longer letting season, there are returns from 8 to 10 per cent.

The course is unrivalled in

the West Indies, but will face

competition from other golfing developments in Florida, Portugal and the South of France.

Pont Royal, a development in Provence between Avignon and Aix-en-Provence, has sold more than 120 properties and is only an hour's flight away from Britain.

The Pont Royal course is set in 450 acres of coun-

tryside and is 30 minutes

from the airport at

Marseille. The course, de-

signed by Seve Ballesteros, has 18 holes. Other facilities include a 600-metre swimming pool, tennis courts, fishing and horse-riding.

The flight to Barbados may be just four hours on Concorde, but for most people it is a long hike. However Royal Westmoreland has the advantage over many European locations of unbeatable weather and a magical setting.

• Royal Westmoreland: 0171-355

5028; Pont Royal 0171-702-0033

SIR ROBIN BUCHANAN and his wife Naomi are among the first buyers at Royal Westmoreland. The golfing and Barbados enthusiasts, who come from Bath, bought a £275,000 home with split-level sitting rooms and views of the sea.

Sir Robin, a former busi-

nessman who was knighted for his work for the National Health Service, says: "We bought the house when it was just stakes in the ground." By buying at such an early stage, the Buchanans were able to alter the design to accommodate a bigger shower.

• Royal Westmoreland: 0171-355

5028; Pont Royal 0171-702-0033

SIR ROBIN BUCHANAN and his wife Naomi are among the first buyers at Royal Westmoreland. The golfing and Barbados enthusiasts, who come from Bath, bought a £275,000 home with split-level sitting rooms and views of the sea.

Sir Robin, a former busi-

Cash-squeezed council could gain £2m from scheme

Oxford leisure complex awaits planning vote

Oxford residents must wait till the end of this month for the result of one of the most important planning applications to go before the city council. Developers have applied for permission for a new £17 million leisure complex near the railway station. The council stands to make at least £2 million in "planning gain" to fund other schemes.

The decision, due last month, was delayed till the Royal Fine Art Commission saw the plans. The money from the sale of the six-and-a-half-acre Oxpens site, jointly owned by the Labour council and Railtrack, would help to fund small projects under threat from spending cuts.

Opponents of the scheme, however, fear that the council will bow to financial pressure to grant permission despite residents' objections.

Richard Davy, a Liberal

Mr Davy continues: "It's just that we are against this particular type of development. We would prefer something more interesting and in scale."

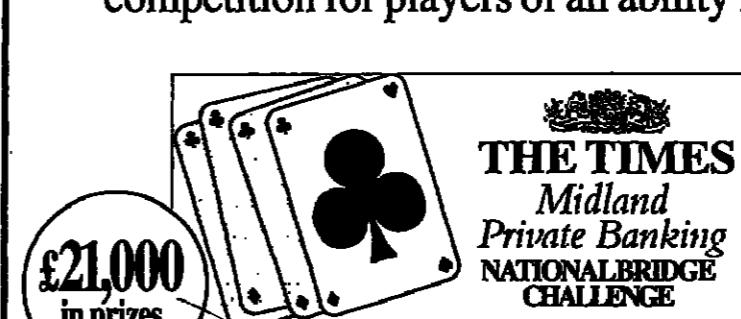
The site is currently used as a coach and lorry park, and is out of the view of any Oxford college. John Arnold, director of property and technical services, said: "The council needs the money from this sale to continue its capital programme. I don't see there's a problem in having modern buildings close to historic ones."

Though no colleges have objected, local residents and John Patten, the MP, have expressed concern about the development at two public meetings and, in response, Pentith has responded by making 60 changes to its original proposals.

RACHEL KELLY

THE TIMES

Try your hand at the biggest UK bridge competition for players of all ability levels



If you are a member of a bridge club or society or just a social player

CALL
0181-942 9506
FOR DETAILS
OR SEND OFF THE COUPON

IN SUPPORT OF
THE NATIONAL TRUST
Reg. Charity No. 205846

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____



Member HSBC Group

Send this completed coupon to:
The Times Midland Private Banking
Britannia Building, Beverley Way,
New Malden, Surrey KT3 4PH
or fax to 0181-942 9569

How to buy a new home and sell your old one...

RESIDENCES

Cambridge, near Newbury £365,000 Call 01256 814314
Oaklands. A luxury development of five 5 bedroomed homes each set in half acre with two houses also boasting an additional 1/2 acre paddock, surrounded by views of open countryside. Well located for the M4 and Newbury, the site is approached by its own village pond and landscaped grounds.

Woking £219,950 Call 01268 770070
Kingwood. Situated in a superb residential location within half a mile of Maidenhead centre and the train station, we are creating just two 4 bedroom detached properties with individually styled elevations. Accommodation includes a large kitchen/breakfast room and double garage.

Sandgate £515,000 Call 01268 770070
Belvedere Grange. An opulently furnished show apartment is now open at Belvedere House, a recent country manor which plays host to just six high calibre luxury apartments, some with glorious views towards Sunningdale Golf Course and served by a lift. Only the Penthouse is now available with spacious drawing room with balcony, master bedroom suite with dressing room and en-suite facilities, and private lift.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
Wootton Green From £126,950 Call 01268 770070
Bakewell Orchard. Only two homes now remain on this charming development in a picturesque setting on the edge of the Village Green featuring 3 bedroom cottages using a variety of materials including brick, flint and offering different floor layouts. Nearby Bourne End station allows access to Paddington in approximately 40 minutes.

Wantage £375,000 and £385,000 Call 01256 814314
New Winchester. Just two detached 5 bedroom executive homes in an exclusive established residential area allowing easy access to the M3 and Winchester. Each property enjoys a large garden featuring an established woodland copse.

Pyrford £72,500 to £325,000 Call 01932 868999
St Martins Mews & St Nicholas Crescent, Floyds Lane. The opportunity to purchase into this successful and innovative development of spacious 1 and 2 bedroom luxury apartments, 3 bedroom houses and 3 and 4 bedroom town houses, set within 20 acres of private and secure parkland. Only 40 minutes from London.

Tadworth £364,500 Call 01932 868999
Watts Close. Three, individually designed 5 bedroom, 4 reception room family houses, set in mature plots and located on the border of Walton on the Hill and Tadworth with easy access to the M25 and Tadworth BR Station (London Bridge 45 minutes).

Weybridge £229,500 Call 01932 868999
Orchard End. Located within the renowned Oaklands area, a select development of three, 5 bedroom family homes with 3 reception rooms, en-suite facilities and integral double garage. (Waterloo 30 minutes).

Mannings Heath £335,000 Call 01403 211230
The Fairways. Only one remaining from three individual 5 bedroom homes stunningly situated overlooking the 16th green, on the edge of Mannings Heath Golf Course.



...in an afternoon.

Wouldn't it be great if buying the home of your dreams was not dependent on selling your old house? Good news. It's not. The Berkeley Homes Bespoke Part Exchange Service means that you can trade in your existing house for a brand new Berkeley home. And that's not all. Thanks to our Bespoke Design Services, we can tailor the house you want to suit your lifestyle. For more details, visit one of our show homes or call us today.

Above all else, it's a Berkeley Home

Berkeley
HOMES

Free
Move

SELL FAST. MOVE QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

Buying a new home is a very personal decision, which is why we offer Fairclough's award winning HomeMaker scheme. With the freedom to choose from a wide range of options - some free - to enhance the already high specifications, you can tailor your new home to suit your personal tastes and requirements.

A unique development of new and refurbished apartments with prices from £59,950.

CALL FOR A PRIVATE VIEWING ON: 01582 762942 (24 hours)
Poet's Corner, Harpenden, Hertfordshire

Fairclough Homes
Come home to quality

SHOW HOMES OPEN 10AM - 5.30PM SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

SELL FAST. MOVE QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

Buying a new home is a very personal decision, which is why we offer Fairclough's award winning HomeMaker scheme. With the freedom to choose from a wide range of options - some free - to enhance the already high specifications, you can tailor your new home to suit your personal tastes and requirements.

A unique development of new and refurbished apartments with prices from £59,950.

CALL FOR A PRIVATE VIEWING ON: 01582 762942 (24 hours)
Poet's Corner, Harpenden, Hertfordshire

Fairclough Homes
Come home to quality

SHOW HOMES OPEN 10AM - 5.30PM SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

Free
Move

IN BERKSHIRE & SURREY

NO DEPOSIT, NO PROBLEM!

You can come home to quality in a Fairclough home even if you haven't got the standard 5% deposit. We will pay the deposit on your behalf - subject to status - so you can take your place without delay in a stylish new home by Fairclough. Or instead of paying the deposit, you can use your savings to further enhance the specification of your new home. Select from a wide range of HomeMaker options - some at no extra cost - to ensure your new home is exactly the way you like it.

SELLFAST.MOVEQUICK.

Fairclough can take away the uncertainty of selling your existing home. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme available on selected sites and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

Free
Move

IN BERKSHIRE & SURREY

NO DEPOSIT, NO PROBLEM!

You can come home to quality in a Fairclough home even if you haven't got the standard 5% deposit. We will pay the deposit on your behalf - subject to status - so you can take your place without delay in a stylish new home by Fairclough. Or instead of paying the deposit, you can use your savings to further enhance the specification of your new home. Select from a wide range of HomeMaker options - some at no extra cost - to ensure your new home is exactly the way you like it.

SELLFAST.MOVEQUICK.

Fairclough can take away the uncertainty of selling your existing home. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme available on selected sites and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

Free
Move

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

HISTON

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

Fairclough Homes
Come home to quality

SHOW HOMES OPEN 10AM - 5.30PM SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

WATERLOO

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

DOCKLANDS

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

CITY OF LONDON

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

DOCKLANDS

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAYFAIR

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

RICHMOND & KINGSTON

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

WEST END

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

DULWICH

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

WOKING

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

WATERLOO

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

DOCKLANDS

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

E14

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

KENSINGTON

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAYFAIR

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top quality home appeals to you but you have yet to sell your present home, Fairclough can take away the uncertainty. Opt for our 100% Full Value Part Exchange Scheme and we could consider buying your existing home (subject to the usual requirements), giving you the freedom to move NOW and begin enjoying that luxury sooner than you think.

MAIDENHEAD

SELL FAST. QUICK.

If the luxury of a top

Sentiment bows to business as Danoli falters

IAN STEWART



ANDREW LONGMORE
At Cheltenham

Only one man in Co Carlow had a smile on his face after Danoli's defeat yesterday and even he knew he was smiling for the wrong reasons. For Terry Clarke, the mile-high pile of betting slips, representing the pounds and pence and goodwill of every man, woman and child in the town, meant that sentiment had to be ushered out of the door of Snells, the little betting office in Bagenalstown.

This was business and not even a long friendship with Tom Foley cemented over the odd wager or two, not a strong instinct for miracles nor the host of hopeful faces, most of whom had never had a bet in their lives. Danoli must not win, for all the colour photograph of the local champion proudly pinned to the wall behind him.

An hour before the Champion on Hurdle, Clarke's nerves were already shredded. "It's unreal," Clarke, the manager of Snells, said. "There is no other horse than Danoli in the race as far as these people are concerned. I don't have to ask them who they're backing, I just take the ticket. I've had people I've never seen before, from the bank, the chemists, businessmen and farmers. If Danoli wins, there will be queues all the way down to the bank." On this side of the water, the feeling was much the same. Cheltenham was awash with tales which grew taller with every telling. How Danoli had been blessed by Father Edward Dowling of St Andrew's Church in Bagenalstown and tipped by Father

Breen of Co Kildare in his sermon last Sunday. Alongside Tom Foley, the quietly spoken trainer of Danoli, whose unassuming manner has been as much part of the improbable storyline as the deeds of Danoli, Chris Riggs had a very different kind of investment in the horse. No money, just time, skill and patience.

For 90 minutes last April, Riggs, a vet at the Liverpool University Equine Hospital, had operated on Danoli's off fore-leg, inserting three pins into the shattered joint. Privately, Riggs believed Danoli had no more than a 20 per cent chance of ever racing again, but the overwhelming optimism of Foley, who never once doubted the master, kept him going. "I suppose I'm the pessimist," he said. "He always said he would be back racing again and he was proved correct," Riggs said.

Yesterday, the most popular Irish horse since Dawn Run was cheered into the parade ring and cheered again into fourth. Foley knew his horse's fate long before Collier Bay had sailed up the hill to victory, had probably feared it once the forecast overnight rain had proved reality. Standing at the back of the stand set aside for the stable lads, he watched through shaking binoculars as Danoli clattered the third last as hard as he had 12 months before. By the time Danoli had run on into fourth, the disappointment had been diluted by the thought that merely returning to Cheltenham was a success.

In a succession of inter-

'There is no other horse than Danoli in the race'

views, Foley spoke of the soft ground and Danoli's poor jumping. He praised the winner, said with sincerity that others had been better on the day, that his horse had run its heart out and beaten 12 home. Like the trainer of a beaten world heavyweight champion, never once did he suggest that



Foley is submerged by waves of journalists after Danoli's defeat in the Smurfit Champion Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival yesterday

his champion might not be good enough. But when the last microphone had gone, he merged back into the crowd and wistfully watched the exultation of the celebrations in the winner's enclosure. Danoli might yet go to Aintree, where he suffered his injury and, all being well, he will

certainly be back at Cheltenham as a chaser next spring. Back in Bagenalstown, Snells had long since been left to its regulars and the sights of relief which blew a shower of torn betting slips down the main street. "It's a real relief. I've never known such pressure," Clarke said. "It was a

great atmosphere in here before the start but you could see the faces drop a quarter of a mile out. People stayed on just hoping for a miracle, but as soon as the race was over, the place was empty. They didn't care about the ground or the course or the form, they just wanted that horse to win. I feel

sorry for Tom, but I'm sure he would understand. It's purely business."

About £3,000 worth of business, to be precise, ten times above the usual takings for one race. Battle will resume today, of course. Another Carlow certainty is in the wind. Wither or Which in the last.

Ventana Canyon lifts Irish spirits

BY OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE Irish came to Cheltenham expecting to cheer home Danoli in the Smurfit Champion Hurdle but had to be content with Ventana Canyon's success in the Guinness Arkle Trophy Chase, their only winner on the opening day of the Festival.

Ventana Canyon, at 7-1, was the second choice to Manhattan Castle among the Irish challenge, but Manhattan Castle's supporters swiftly knew their fate when he swerved at the start and threw the jockey, Francis Woods. "He lost his balance and his hind legs went," Woods said.

Add the tragic accident to Draborgie and Edward O'Grady, the trainer of Ventana Canyon, was blessing his luck. "The cards fell our way," O'Grady said. The Co Tipperary trainer has not accumulated 14 Festival winners by luck alone, though, and he had set about maximising his horse's chance early yesterday.

"We schooled him over one fence and it turned out to be a good decision," O'Grady added after Richard Dunwoody had brought the gelding home clear of Arctic Kingman. "It helped him to get his eye in."

Tom Foley had feared for Danoli's chance in the Champion Hurdle on Monday night when rain turned the ground good to soft. "It's very testing" and Danoli just doesn't like that," he said. The ground was also blamed by Charlie Swan for Hotel Minella's failure. "It made all the difference, he was never happy on it," Swan said.

Dance Beat was best of the Irish in sixth in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle, but the well-backed Beakstown fell at the first. There was no better luck in the Ritz Club Handicap Chase as Flashing Steel was unhappy on soft ground.

THE TIMES
SNOWLINE
0891 333 568

24hr skiing information direct from the resorts inc:
AUSTRIA • FRANCE • SWITZERLAND • ITALY
REST OF EUROPE • N. AMERICA/CANADA
SPAIN/ANDORRA • ROMANIA/BULGARIA

Or for a faxed report, dial:
0891 662 258
from a telephone linked to a fax machine

WEATHERLINE 0891 333 462
Comprehensive outlook in the skiing areas for the week ahead

SKI CLUB
The Ski Club of Great Britain
125 Club House, London SW9 8AF
Calls cost 3p/min plus 10p
between 6.30am and 6.30pm

HUNTINGDON

2.05 KEYNOTE WINNING HANDICAP HURDLE
(2/2,003: 2m 5f 110yds) (17 runners)

1-1900 BEEF AND BONE 10 (2.5f) Mr J. B. Smith 9-1
1-1901 BEEFAR 10 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1902 FAIR OUT 9 (2.5f) S. O'Brien 10-11-3
1-1903 PIND EASTER 11 (2.5f) P. Conwell 10-11-11
1-1904 PIND EASTER 11 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1905 PRYDON'S SATURATE 10 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1906 RUMBLE 12 (2.5f) Mr J. Clarke 10-11-3
1-1907 ULTRON 12 (2.5f) Mr J. Clarke 10-11-3
1-1908 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mr J. Clarke 10-11-3
1-1909 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1910 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1911 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1912 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1913 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1914 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1915 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1916 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1917 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1918 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1919 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1920 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1921 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1922 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1923 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1924 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1925 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1926 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1927 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1928 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1929 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1930 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1931 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1932 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1933 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1934 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1935 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1936 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1937 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1938 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1939 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1940 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1941 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1942 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1943 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1944 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1945 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1946 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1947 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1948 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1949 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1950 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1951 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1952 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1953 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1954 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1955 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1956 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1957 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1958 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1959 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1960 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1961 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1962 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1963 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1964 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1965 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1966 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1967 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1968 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1969 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1970 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1971 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1972 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1973 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1974 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1975 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1976 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1977 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1978 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1979 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1980 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1981 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1982 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1983 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1984 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1985 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1986 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1987 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1988 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1989 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1990 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1991 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1992 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1993 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1994 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1995 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1996 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1997 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1998 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-1999 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2000 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2001 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2002 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2003 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2004 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2005 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2006 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2007 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2008 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2009 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2010 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2011 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2012 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2013 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2014 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2015 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2016 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2017 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2018 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2019 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2020 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2021 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2022 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2023 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2024 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2025 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2026 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2027 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2028 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2029 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2030 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2031 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2032 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2033 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2034 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2035 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2036 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2037 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2038 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2039 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2040 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2041 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2042 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2043 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2044 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2045 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2046 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2047 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2048 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2049 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2050 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2051 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2052 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2053 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2054 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2055 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith 9-11-3
1-2056 WINDY 12 (2.5f) Mrs S. Smith

Leading trainer loses two horses as opening day takes its toll

Pipe's Festival dreams end in tears

By JULIAN MUSCAT

THE Cheltenham Festival has brought extremes of emotion to Martin Pipe, who has populated the winner's enclosure every year since 1989. But an ill wind swept down from this snow-covered amphitheatre yesterday and cut the trainer to the bone.

Post mortems on the first three races revealed casualties on a monstrous scale. Jamie Evans, indented to the Pipe yard, suffered a broken leg in a fall from the stable's Robert's Toy in the opening Supreme Novices' Hurdle, in which Simon McNeill suffered a dislocated shoulder when brought down from Porphyrios.

But what followed later was

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: TREASURE AGAIN
(3.30 Cheltenham)
Next best: Call It A Day
(5.15 Cheltenham)

infinitely worse. Draborgie progressed no further than the second fence after shattering a stern in the Guinness Arde Trophy Chase. The dazzling mare, a recent import from France, had greatly excelled her trainer, who was on hand to witness her humane destruction on the course before rushing back to saddle three runners in the Smurfit Champion Hurdle.

Only two returned from the experience. Mack The Knife, prominent for much of the race, broke down on the run to the final flight and he, too, paid the ultimate price. Again, Pipe was at the vet's side; the abuse heaped at him from punters crowding the rail was spelt in the extreme.

Pipe has known adversity at this fixture, most notably when Carville Hill broke down irreparably, and in controversial circumstances in the



Jenny Pitman's Indefence, ridden by Warren Marston, opened the Festival with a surprise 25-1 victory in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle

Gold Cup four years ago. But this was misery on a propitious scale.

Pipe's demeanour is not endearing at the best of times. Nevertheless, his fiercest critic will have recoiled at the unfolding script.

A lasting image is of the man proceeding with his duties, obligingly entering into the spirit with a series of different owners whose horses performed with credit later in the day. Outwardly unmoved, his internal grief must have all but disengaged him.

Come the fifth race, and still there was to be no respite. So far clear was Encore Un Peu

in the Mildmay of Fleet Handicap Chase that his supporters had long since counted their winnings when the horse started up the run-in. Yet the chestnut faltered, allowing Stop The Waller's unrelenting stride to retrieve the deficit at the winning post.

On a day of high attrition, it was not just the Pipe horses which travelled home with empty stalls.

Jeff Pearce's small Newmarket stable will be mourning the death of its leading light, Kilkenny Cross, who crashed out of the Ritz Club Chase when disputing the lead. Edward O'Grady overseas an

altogether larger establishment in Ireland but that will not lessen the blow of his losing No When To Run in the concluding Hamlet Cigars Gold Card Hurdle Final.

The afternoon has started

promisingly for O'Grady, who dispatched Ventana Canyon to ouclass Arctic Kinsman in the Arkle Chase. Even without Draborgie's demise the contest was flawed before it started when the fancied Manahan Castle unseated his jockey Francis Woods, as the roses rose.

And Trying Again, another prime contender, was so lethargic at the gate that he

trailed the field throughout before Jamie Osborne finally drew stumps.

As O'Grady readily admits

in the winners' enclosure: "The cards fell in our favour. It was an incident-packed race, but I didn't see much of it — I had my eyes closed most of the time."

O'Grady revealed he had schooled Ventana Canyon on the morning of the race when Richard Dunwoodie, who rode

the winner, was tucked up in bed. Remarkably, it was Dunwoodie's first Festival victory in three years.

Tim Forster's wilderness has stretched far longer. Not

since 1979 has the experienced trainer entertained the gallery

from the Festival winner's enclosure but Maamur's victory in the Ritz Club Chase offered an encouraging prelude to Dublin Flyer's attempt on the Gold Cup tomorrow.

Indeed, on a less trying

afternoon, Maamur's defeat of the Gordon Richards-trained Unguided Missie would have made an interesting cameo in advance of steeplechasing's blue ribbon.

If Forster took the spoils on this occasion, it was not lost on One Man's supporters that, like the Gold Cup favourite, Maamur is grey in colour.

Viking Flagship can complete notable treble

TODAY'S RACES
AT CHELTENHAM

21s: Every winner since Sabini Du Loi has won over 2½ miles or more in the current season and the last 11 have been placed first or second in their previous race. Jet Rules has done nothing but improve, and his impressive victory in the Persian War Hurdle underlined Jimmy Pitman's assessment that the six-year-old is a very exciting prospect "who we think the world of". Jack Tanner put up a particularly good performance on only his second run over hurdles in a slowly run novice contest at Warwick, a race which has provided the winner three times since 1989.

44s: Two runners stand out here. Class Of Ninetytwo is unbeaten in four starts over fences and Tim Forster's lightly raced runner put in his best display of jumping when making all the running at Chepstow 25 days ago. However, the credentials of Kalona look every bit as good and the Irish raider should be a bumper.

Mr Mulligan's stayer has improved no less than 32lb during the season and finished a good third behind Johnny Setsaside last month and should relish the step up to four miles.

44s: Two runners stand out here. Class Of Ninetytwo is unbeaten in four starts over fences and Tim Forster's lightly raced runner put in his best display of jumping when making all the running at Chepstow 25 days ago. However, the credentials of Kalona look every bit as good and the Irish raider should be a bumper.

Mr Mulligan's stayer has improved no less than 32lb during the season and finished a good third behind Johnny Setsaside last month and should relish the step up to four miles.

David Nicholson's new recruit finished second to Simply Dashing and is one for the short-list, but I believe Go Informal has a real each-way chance at big odds. On a line through Monymore, he is every bit as good as Simply Dashing, who would have probably started favourite here if he had run. Twice a winner over Newcastle's stiff 2½ miles, he is highly rated by Malcolm Jefferson.

25s: Everything has come right for Viking Flagship, and in a race in which favourites have an exceptional record David Nicholson's popular chaser can win take this for the third year running. After two lacklustre efforts, the nine-year-old bounced back to his best at Newbury and Kempsey last month. His best form is on softish ground whereas Sound Man and Strong Platinum, the two Irish challengers, prefer a sounder surface.

33s: The unexpected declaration of Hotel Minella has compressed the weights and will give Time For A Run a good chance of improving on his third place in this race last year. Edward O'Grady has never had his tough nine-year-old in better shape and he races off a lower mark than 12 months ago. Had the weights gone up Sparky Gayle's chances would have improved. Despite being 8lb out of the handicap, the best horse Colin Parker has trained looks sure to be thereabouts.

However, I cannot look beyond Treasure Again now that the ground has turned in his favour. Merritt Jones's stable star, winner of two races in the mud last term, has progressed with virtually every run and put up his best performance when winning at Ascot in January. Further improvement is expected.

40s: The performance recorded by Mr Mulligan when winning the Reynoldstown Chase at Ascot four weeks ago was the best by a novice staying chaser for at least five years and he is a stone clear of his nearest challenger. No winner of the Ascot race has followed up here since Killiney in 1973. However, Noel Chance's imposing eight-year-

old Andantito and Wither Or

Which are likely to be backed to the exclusion of virtually everything else. With the ground likely to be soft, preference is for the Willie Mullins-trained and ridden Wither Or Which. Agistment is a decent priced alternative to the two market leaders.

RICHARD EVANS

CHELTENHAM

THUNDERER
2.15 Go-Informal
2.47 Sound Man
3.30 SOHRAB (nap)

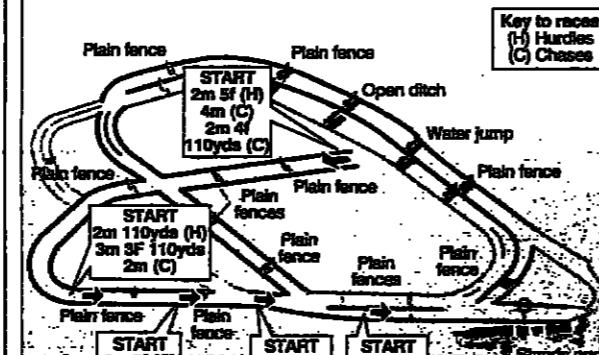
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
4.05 MR MULLIGAN.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 5.50 Burn Out.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

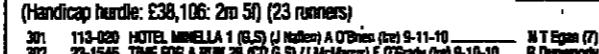
2.15 SUN ALLIANCE NOVICES HURDLE
(Grade 1: 147, 416; 2m 5f (25 runners))

GUIDE TO THE OLD COURSE



3.30 CORAL CUP

(Handicap grade: E30, 106; 2nd 50) (23 runners)



GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 11145 6000 TIMES 13 (BF) (S) (Ms) D Redvers 8 Hall 12-4 B West (7) 86
Racecard number. Stakes form (F) — flat, (U) unplaced, (W) won, (B) second, (S) third, (D) fourth, (C) fifth, (P) sixth, (L) seventh, (T) eighth, (N) ninth, (M) tenth, (R) eleventh, (O) twelfth, (H) thirteenth, (V) fourteenth, (G) fifteenth, (J) sixteenth, (K) seventeenth, (I) eighteenth, (Q) nineteenth, (U) twentieth, (X) twenty-first, (Y) twenty-second, (Z) twenty-third, (A) twenty-fourth, (B) twenty-fifth, (C) twenty-sixth, (D) twenty-seventh, (E) twenty-eighth, (F) twenty-ninth, (H) thirty-first, (I) thirty-second, (J) thirty-third, (K) thirty-fourth, (L) thirty-fifth, (M) thirty-sixth, (N) thirty-seventh, (O) thirty-eighth, (P) thirty-ninth, (Q) thirty-tenth, (R) thirty-first, (S) thirty-second, (T) thirty-third, (U) thirty-fourth, (V) thirty-fifth, (W) thirty-sixth, (X) thirty-seventh, (Y) thirty-eighth, (Z) thirty-ninth, (A) thirty-tenth, (B) thirty-first, (C) thirty-second, (D) thirty-third, (E) thirty-fourth, (F) thirty-fifth, (G) thirty-sixth, (H) thirty-seventh, (I) thirty-eighth, (J) thirty-ninth, (K) thirty-tenth, (L) thirty-first, (M) thirty-second, (N) thirty-third, (O) thirty-fourth, (P) thirty-fifth, (Q) thirty-sixth, (R) thirty-seventh, (S) thirty-eighth, (T) thirty-ninth, (U) thirty-tenth, (V) thirty-first, (W) thirty-second, (X) thirty-third, (Y) thirty-fourth, (Z) thirty-fifth, (A) thirty-tenth, (B) thirty-first, (C) thirty-second, (D) thirty-third, (E) thirty-fourth, (F) thirty-fifth, (G) thirty-sixth, (H) thirty-seventh, (I) thirty-eighth, (J) thirty-ninth, (K) thirty-tenth, (L) thirty-first, (M) thirty-second, (N) thirty-third, (O) thirty-fourth, (P) thirty-fifth, (Q) thirty-sixth, (R) thirty-seventh, (S) thirty-eighth, (T) thirty-ninth, (U) thirty-tenth, (V) thirty-first, (W) thirty-second, (X) thirty-third, (Y) thirty-fourth, (Z) thirty-fifth, (A) thirty-tenth, (B) thirty-first, (C) thirty-second, (D) thirty-third, (E) thirty-fourth, (F) thirty-fifth, (G) thirty-sixth, (H) thirty-seventh, (I) thirty-eighth, (J) thirty-ninth, (K) thirty-tenth, (L) thirty-first, (M) thirty-second, (N) thirty-third, (O) thirty-fourth, (P) thirty-fifth, (Q) thirty-sixth, (R) thirty-seventh, (S) thirty-eighth, (T) thirty-ninth, (U) thirty-tenth, (V) thirty-first, (W) thirty-second, (X) thirty-third, (Y) thirty-fourth, (Z) thirty-fifth, (A) thirty-tenth, (B) thirty-first, (C) thirty-second, (D) thirty-third, (E) thirty-fourth, (F) thirty-fifth, (G) thirty-sixth, (H) thirty-seventh, (I) thirty-eighth, (J) thirty-ninth, (K) thirty-tenth, (L) thirty-first, (M) thirty-second, (N) thirty-third, (O) thirty-fourth, (P) thirty-fifth, (Q) thirty-sixth, (R) thirty-seventh, (S) thirty-eighth, (T) thirty-ninth, (U) thirty-tenth, (V) thirty-first, (W) thirty-second, (X) thirty-third, (Y) thirty-fourth, (Z) thirty-fifth, (A) thirty-tenth, (B) thirty-first, (C) thirty-second, (D) thirty-third, (E) thirty-fourth, (F) thirty-fifth, (G) thirty-sixth, (H) thirty-seventh, (I) thirty-eighth, (J) thirty-ninth, (K) thirty-tenth, (L) thirty-first, (M) thirty-second, (N) thirty-third, (O) thirty-fourth, (P) thirty-fifth, (Q) thirty-sixth, (R) thirty-seventh, (S) thirty-eighth, (T) thirty-ninth, (U) thirty-tenth, (V) thirty-first, (W) thirty-second, (X) thirty-third, (Y) thirty-fourth, (Z) thirty-fifth, (A) thirty-tenth, (B) thirty-first, (C) thirty-second, (D) thirty-third, (E) thirty-fourth, (F) thirty-fifth, (G) thirty-sixth, (H) thirty-seventh, (I) thirty-eighth, (J) thirty-ninth, (K) thirty-tenth, (L) thirty-first, (M) thirty-second, (N) thirty-third, (O) thirty-fourth, (P) thirty-fifth, (Q) thirty-sixth, (R) thirty-seventh, (S) thirty-eighth, (T) thirty-ninth, (U) thirty-tenth, (V) thirty-first, (W) thirty-second, (X) thirty-third, (Y) thirty-fourth, (Z) thirty-fifth, (A) thirty-tenth, (B) thirty-first, (C) thirty-second, (D) thirty-third, (E) thirty-fourth, (F) thirty-fifth, (G) thirty-sixth, (H) thirty-seventh, (I) thirty-eighth, (J) thirty-ninth, (K) thirty-tenth, (L) thirty-first, (M) thirty-second, (N) thirty-third, (O) thirty-fourth, (P) thirty-fifth, (Q) thirty-sixth, (R) thirty-seventh, (S) thirty-eighth, (T) thirty-ninth, (U) thirty-tenth, (V) thirty-first, (W) thirty-second, (X) thirty-third, (Y) thirty-fourth, (Z) thirty-fifth, (A) thirty-tenth, (B) thirty-first, (C) thirty-second, (D) thirty-third, (E) thirty-fourth, (F) thirty-fifth, (G) thirty-sixth, (H) thirty-seventh, (I) thirty-eighth, (J) thirty-ninth, (K) thirty-tenth, (L) thirty-first, (M) thirty-second, (N) thirty-third, (O) thirty-fourth, (P) thirty-fifth, (Q) thirty-sixth, (R) thirty-seventh, (S) thirty-eighth, (T) thirty-ninth, (U) thirty-tenth, (V) thirty-first, (W) thirty-second, (X) thirty-third, (Y) thirty-fourth, (Z) thirty-fifth, (A) thirty-tenth, (B) thirty-first, (C) thirty-second, (D) thirty-third, (E) thirty-fourth, (F) thirty-fifth, (G) thirty-sixth, (H) thirty-seventh, (I) thirty-eighth, (J) thirty-ninth, (K) thirty-tenth, (L) thirty-first, (M) thirty-second, (N) thirty-third, (O) thirty-fourth, (P) thirty-fifth, (Q) thirty-sixth, (R) thirty-seventh, (S) thirty-eighth, (T) thirty-ninth, (U) thirty-tenth, (V) thirty-first, (W) thirty-second, (X) thirty-third, (Y) thirty-fourth, (Z) thirty-fifth, (A) thirty-tenth, (B) thirty-first, (C) thirty-second, (D) thirty-third, (E) thirty-fourth, (F) thirty-fifth, (G) thirty-sixth, (H) thirty-seventh, (I) thirty-eighth, (J) thirty-ninth, (K) thirty-tenth, (L) thirty-first, (M) thirty-second, (N) thirty-third, (O) thirty-fourth, (P) thirty-fifth, (Q) thirty-sixth, (R) thirty-seventh, (S) thirty-eighth, (T) thirty-ninth, (U) thirty-tenth, (V) thirty-first, (W) thirty-second, (X) thirty-third, (Y) thirty-fourth, (Z) thirty-fifth, (A) thirty-tenth, (B) thirty-first, (C) thirty-second, (D) thirty-third, (E) thirty-fourth, (F) thirty-fifth, (G) thirty-sixth, (H) thirty-seventh, (I) thirty-eighth, (J) thirty-ninth, (K) thirty-tenth, (L) thirty-first, (M) thirty-second, (N) thirty-third, (O) thirty-fourth, (P) thirty-fifth, (Q) thirty-sixth, (R) thirty-seventh, (S) thirty-eighth, (T) thirty-ninth, (U) thirty-tenth, (V) thirty-first, (W) thirty-second, (X) thirty-third, (Y) thirty-fourth, (Z) thirty-fifth, (A) thirty-tenth, (B) thirty-first, (C) thirty-second, (D) thirty-third, (E) thirty-fourth, (F) thirty-fifth, (G) thirty-sixth, (H) thirty-seventh, (I) thirty-eighth, (J) thirty-ninth, (K) thirty-tenth, (L) thirty-first, (M) thirty-second, (N) thirty-third, (O) thirty-fourth, (P) thirty-fifth, (Q) thirty-sixth, (R) thirty-seventh, (S) thirty-eighth, (T) thirty-ninth, (U) thirty-tenth, (V) thirty-first, (W) thirty-second, (X) thirty-third, (Y) thirty-fourth, (Z) thirty-fifth, (A) thirty-tenth, (B) thirty-first, (C) thirty-second, (D) thirty-third, (E) thirty-fourth, (F) thirty-fifth, (G) thirty-sixth, (H) thirty-seventh, (I) thirty-eighth, (J) thirty-ninth, (K) thirty-tenth, (L) thirty-first, (M) thirty-second, (N) thirty-third, (O) thirty-fourth, (P) thirty-fifth, (Q) thirty-sixth, (R) thirty-seventh, (S) thirty-eighth, (T) thirty-ninth, (U) thirty-tenth, (V) thirty-first, (W) thirty-second, (X) thirty-third, (Y) thirty-fourth, (Z) thirty-fifth, (A) thirty-tenth, (B) thirty-first, (C) thirty-second, (D) thirty-third, (E) thirty-fourth, (F) thirty-fifth, (G) thirty-sixth, (H) thirty-seventh, (I) thirty-eighth, (J) thirty-ninth, (K) thirty-tenth, (L) thirty-first, (M) thirty-second, (N) thirty-third, (O) thirty-fourth, (P) thirty-fifth, (Q) thirty-sixth, (R) thirty-seventh, (S) thirty-eighth, (T) thirty-ninth, (U) thirty-tenth, (V) thirty-first, (W) thirty-second, (X) thirty-third, (Y) thirty-fourth, (Z) thirty-fifth, (A) thirty-tenth, (B) thirty-first, (C) thirty-second, (D) thirty-third, (E) thirty-fourth, (F) thirty-fifth, (G) thirty-sixth, (H) thirty-seventh, (I) thirty-eighth, (J) thirty-ninth, (K) thirty-tenth, (L) thirty-first, (M) thirty-second, (N) thirty-third, (O) thirty-fourth, (P) thirty-fifth, (Q) thirty-sixth, (R) thirty-seventh, (S) thirty-eighth, (T) thirty-ninth, (U) thirty-tenth, (V) thirty-first, (W) thirty-second, (X) thirty-third, (Y) thirty-fourth, (Z) thirty-fifth, (A) thirty-tenth, (B) thirty-first, (C) thirty-second, (D) thirty-third, (E) thirty-fourth, (F) thirty-fifth, (G) thirty-sixth, (H) thirty-seventh, (I) thirty-eighth, (J) thirty-ninth, (K) thirty-tenth, (L) thirty-first, (M) thirty-second, (N) thirty-third, (O) thirty-fourth, (P) thirty-fifth, (Q) thirty-sixth, (R) thirty-seventh, (S) thirty-eighth, (T) thirty-ninth, (U) thirty-tenth, (V) thirty-first, (W) thirty-second, (X) thirty-third, (Y) thirty-fourth, (Z) thirty-fifth, (A) thirty-tenth, (B) thirty-first, (C) thirty-second, (D) thirty-third, (E) thirty-fourth, (F) thirty-fifth, (G) thirty-sixth, (H) thirty-seventh, (I) thirty-eighth, (J) thirty-ninth, (K) thirty-tenth, (L) thirty-first, (M) thirty-second, (N) thirty-third, (O) thirty-fourth, (P) thirty-fifth, (Q) thirty-sixth, (R) thirty-seventh, (S) thirty-eighth, (T) thirty-ninth, (U) thirty-tenth, (V) thirty-first, (W) thirty-second, (X) thirty-third, (Y) thirty-fourth, (Z) thirty-fifth, (A) thirty-tenth, (B) thirty-first, (C) thirty-second, (D) thirty-third, (E) thirty-fourth, (F) thirty-fifth, (G) thirty-sixth, (H) thirty-seventh, (I) thirty-eighth, (J) thirty-ninth, (K) thirty-tenth, (L) thirty-first, (M) thirty-second, (N) thirty-third, (O) thirty-fourth, (P) thirty-fifth, (Q) thirty-sixth, (R) thirty-seventh, (S) thirty-eighth, (T) thirty-ninth, (U) thirty-tenth, (V) thirty-first, (W) thirty-second, (X) thirty-third, (Y) thirty-fourth, (Z) thirty-fifth

Champion exudes confidence as Tyson steers clear of the limelight

Relaxed Bruno ready to rumble

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT
IN LAS VEGAS

ANY day now, the first "Bruno-oh!" cry of spring will be heard in this city as 5,000 or so Frank Bruno supporters, bedecked with Union Jacks and wearing the official Bruno T-shirts, arrive to see their hero defend his World Boxing Council heavyweight championship against Mike Tyson here on Saturday. They will find Bruno in excellent shape and totally confident of winning.

Bruno said: "I'm not going to embarrass them or myself. I'm flying the flag for Britain and I'm proud of doing that. I'm here to keep my belt."

Bruno has started tapering off his preparations after boxing 180 rounds, the most he has done, during his six-week stay in Tenerife and three weeks here. He did not spar yesterday, but looked sharper than ever before doing his ground exercises and giving the speed ball and pads a bashing. From his movement about the ring hitting the pads, he seemed quicker and smoother than when he lifted the tide from Oliver McCall in December. He was constantly switching from orthodox to southpaw and almost certainly he will use this tactic to throw Tyson off his stride.

He really believes he will not only beat Tyson, but will also knock him out. "It doesn't matter if it comes early or late, but it will come," Bruno said.

"If Tyson doesn't believe it, he is living on another planet. He was in prison for four years and has only had ten minutes' activity in the ring. It's all beneficial to me. I don't think the people he's got around him are doing him any favours. Deep down in his brain, I don't think he's ready for this fight." Because of Tyson's low profile as a result of his closed workouts, Bruno's figure dominates the scene and makes you believe in him.

After his two-hour workout, he appeared not to have a care in the world as he faced the press in his usual light-heart-



Bruno concentrates on attack, throwing a right during a workout in Las Vegas as he prepares for Tyson. Photograph: Marc Aspland

ed manner, addressing the broadsheet newspaper reporters with an "I say old chap... jolly good" and the tabloids with "Awright mate, wicked". His totally-relaxed manner is due as much to his peaking at the right time as to the news that he will be receiving another £1 million to add to his purse of £4 million.

Bruno has been training with three sparring partners who have put him through his paces: Linwood Jones, Everett "Bigfoot" Martin and Anthony Wade. "I feel much more

balanced," Bruno said. "The difference between me now and when I fought Tyson the first time is I am 210 per cent better. I'm ready to rumble, as they say in America. I think it is one of the best things I've done coming here three weeks ahead. Jet lag knocks the stuffing out of you."

Bruno has thoroughly enjoyed working out in public if only to show up Tyson, who stays behind closed doors. "In the old days, I didn't like people to watch me, but as you grow older you get more

relaxed and now I want people to come and see me train, it's good for business. It's good for me, all the signs about his training, all the signs about his being behind closed doors and looking much better than he is — but I'm thinking of Tyson as the old Tyson. Now I am reserving myself, pacing myself nice and easy, eating good food, walking, listening to nice music, rocking, getting involved in the vibes."

Jones, who is perhaps the most important of Bruno's three hired hands, has worked

with Tyson. The 20-stone giant was wanted again by Tyson, but he preferred to stay with Bruno, who is easier on his sparring partners.

Jones finds it difficult to decide who will win. "Bruno is 100 per cent better than the man who beat McCall," he said. "His boxing is much better, he's moving better and everything is going great for him. I have been decked by Bruno and Tyson, but to pick the winner is impossible. If they both hit the way they can, it'll be a hell of a fight. I don't

think Mike has lost a lot, but he has been inactive and this fight could have come a little early for him. It's a very dangerous situation for Mike, but I could not honestly take anyone's dollar to bet on the fight."

Tyson is 3-1 to win in the first round, while Bruno is 25-1 to finish it in the same round. Tyson is expected to win in the first six rounds, but it is interesting that the odds on Tyson winning inside the distance get longer and longer for the later rounds.

Tocco's expert eye sees challenger in a corner

FROM DAVID MILLER

DOWN at Johnny Tocco's, the boxing gymnasium of one of the sporting legends of the United States, they are wondering what is the matter with Mike Tyson. This concern is the only piece of evidence I have discovered so far, in this grotesque city, that indicates anything but another obliteration for nice, big Frank.

Listen to the bookmakers and Frank Bruno's prospects against Tyson on Saturday night are less than they were when Tyson won in five

rounds seven years ago. Listen to blustering, posturing Bruno, talking tough as convincingly as one of the Ugly Sisters, and you sympathetically suspect he is heading for further embarrassment.

Yet listen to Johnny Tocco, who has known every wrinkle of the fight game for more than half a century, since the days when Jack Dempsey trained at his original gymnasium in St Louis, and you begin to wonder whether there may be a chunk in Tyson's once-formidable armour — that of the iron former champion

pion who used to regard Tocco almost with the same respect he had for Cus D'Amato, his childhood mentor.

"Mike always used to train here, he used to say 'this is my home away from home,'" Tocco recalled, sitting beside his ageing retriever in his tiny office in drab downtown Vegas, away from the Strip, where the walls are thick with signed photographs of the greatest names in boxing history working out at his gym. Outside, some of the fighters on the undercard for the event on Saturday earnestly go through their paces.

"I know that Mike wanted to work here this time," Tocco said, "but Don King [his promoter] blocked it. Don and I had an argument about timings the last time Mike fought here. If Mike now doesn't make his own decisions, something's wrong. The World's Gym [where Tyson is preparing] is no place for champions working out — women with their busts sticking out, so many distractions."

"Mike belongs to real boxing people, like he found here. You can see he's not happy, the way he's treating people."

In the days before Tyson was derailed, losing the title of undisputed world champion to Buster Douglas and then imprisoned for rape, his informal relationship with Tocco

epitomised that earthy, intimate quality that distinguishes even today the old boxing fraternity.

Tocco may be 87, with several heart attacks behind him, but his eye and ring instinct remain unfailing. From what he saw of Tyson's two shallow comeback bouts — "[Peter] McNeely, a cut

man of renown from Chicago, called yesterday for no other reason than to ask Mr Tocco for a photograph to be taken of them together.

Across town, Tyson was busy attempting to assure an audience of CNN viewers that the bite is back; that Bruno's big talk of a knockout left him unimpressed. "I'm sure he doesn't believe that in his heart," Tyson said, "especially after our last encounter." He is unbothered, too, by the 5,000 British supporters in town, who "will take that long, depressing trip back to England". He was asked about his unflattering image in relations with the public, the dislike for the former champion that has been evident across the United States.

"I think that most people who don't know me are apprehensive and that's because of things I've said and done in the past," Tyson said defensively. "This may explain the low profile he has been keeping during training, failing to show for several public and press appointments.

Yet still he cannot help the, occasional insult, even when well-intended in a misguided search for humour. His baby daughter, Rayna, born a few weeks ago, is, he said, excitingly beautiful, "so beautiful she makes her mother look like a yard dog".



A snarling Tyson at sparring in Las Vegas yesterday

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut

nothing. [Buster] Mathis was never going to last more than two" — he sensed that, during Tyson's time of inactivity, he may have lost not power but the venom that came from speed of reaction.

So revered is the veteran corner-man that visitors respectfully address him as "Mr Tocco". Laury Meyer, a cut</p

Portrait of Elgar produces another enigma

An interesting point was raised by BBC2's *Bookmark* last Saturday, when it scoffed at the literary biographer. Such sad hangers-on, these biographer chaps, who dangle by a fingertip from other people's fame. Moreover, such a sad function they fulfil, reducing great universal art to vulgar particular anecdote.

All this, as I say, was jolly interesting. Except that, hang on a dog-gone minute, how does television generally address the great cultural creators of the past and present? Him? Biographically, of course. When you read that Channel 4's *Without Walls* will be presenting an hour-long film about Sir Edward Elgar — Elgar's Tenth Mass — the accompanying picture of James Fox in funny white moustache, spooning over a young Hungarian violinist in 1922 bohemian eye make-up seems perfectly natural. A film about

Elgar will be a film about Elgar's life, in which close friends address him as "Ted". In fact, you wonder how good the moustache will be, before you wonder about the music.

The moustache wasn't bad, actually, although fabricated from a woolly substance that never saw a human lip before. The film itself, by Paul Yule, was made with great attention to beauty and light, and the music soared and plunged like Elgar's heart. The young woman's name was Jilly d'Aranyi, and as played by Selma Alisapci (a name to conjure with), she flashed with exotic eastern European mystery, running rings around the poor old duffer in the spats. At the climax of the film, Elgar tried to kiss her and she ran out of his house, hailing a cab in a farcical theatrical manner.

Meanwhile it was plain that Elgar had been moved by Jilly (a sentence I never thought I'd write).

He used the word "damnably" when discussing her — which, among those born in the reign of Victoria, is code for enhanced emotional agitation. But was he rather in love with the music she played (or mimed) so beautifully? Jilly was less ambiguously keen on Elgar, in fact she seemed to fancy him; but then why the sudden flight to Budapest? It was all an enigma, and all very biographical, and the hats were great.

But stop me. If it wasn't the night of a thousand Teds, I believe I mentioned last week that the central figure of Steven Bochco's *Murder One* (BBC2) is called Ted. Well, so was Edward Elgar, and so was Russ Abbot in his new sit-com *Murder for Life* (ITV). What a carry on. You wait years for a leading role called Ted, and then suddenly the airwaves are stiff with them.

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

There were also a lot of bald-headed men on television last night, but I wonder when a critic starts counting the bald-headed men ("There's one! Ha ha!"), it may well be time for a 6,000-mile mile.

Murder One had two bald-headed men, just for the record. One of them, of course, was that most impressive Ted of all, Daniel Benzali, whom we may call here

Superted. Last week's initial murder-and-suspect set-up has been complicated and compounded by a glamorous surprise alibi witness called — wait for it — Beverly Nichols. This show was either never intended for export to Britain, or is a subtle social experiment in surrealism. When the trial judge turns out to be called Les Patterson, Ronnie Corbett or Rudyard Kipling we can legitimately run screaming in the streets.

Russ Abbot does actually look like a Ted, but this was no excuse for *Murder for Life*, a truly abysmal, cardboard sit-com with horrible characters and bad jokes. For years, I have joined in with the platitude that Russ Abbot is a highly talented bloke who by tragic misfortune suffers from bad comic material, but it's time to get tough about this, and waggle the forefinger: "Russ Abbot, you have appalling taste." *Murder for Life* features a wife straight out of Ray

Cooney faires — micro-skirt, Wonderbra, and knee-covering suede boots — to whom the dull Ted is just an inadequate breadwinner. It's one of those shows whose credits shoot up-screen like tracer-bullets at the end, to obtrusively identify the guilty.

There is doubtless a target audience for *Murder for Life*, middle-aged complainants who feel ignored by their grasping families. But the revolt of the henpecked husband has a glorious comic tradition — Walter Minty, Reginald Perrin — and Russ Abbot isn't the right role model in any case, being rather handsome. Even the plot last night was stupid, entailing a missing bankers' draft for £1,000,000. Ted's family hoped he had stolen it, so that they could be rich. But after two days, the bank manager next door finally found it in the waistband of his own trousers (he hadn't taken off his trousers in two days). Still hopeful, teenage son unbuckled Ted's belt, but Ted assured him "There's nothing in there". And his wife said (although she didn't need to), "I can vouch for that".

If the embattled man wants laddish entertainment, he is far better advised to watch the sports quiz *They Think It's All Over* (BBC1), which returned in fine form last night, although quizmaster Nick Hancock's laryngitis sadly hasn't got better. I can't begin to tell you how many bald men were mentioned, but there were lots, and I am not going mad. The tie-break was a classic — interview clip with Ray Parlour of Arsenal, with question to follow. However, before Hancock could pose the question, both quick-witted teams had yelled "Five!" and "Six!". The question was, "How many times did Parlour say 'obviously'?" What excellent entertainment this is.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (94684)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (58042)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax and Video) (9036139) 9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (2438435) 9.45 Kirby (s) (2245680)

10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (97526)

12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2216955) 12.05 Turnabout (s) (5639597) 12.30 Going for a Song (s) (46110)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (31329) 1.30 Regional News and weather (48762087)

1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (94850313)

2.00 Pebble Mill (601961)

2.40 Snowy River — the McGregor Saga (s) (s) (1315690)

3.30 Moonrin (6956665) 3.55 Blitz (s) (5092435) 4.10 Ruggrats (s) (7854777) 4.35 Out of Tune (Ceefax) (s) (2922684)

5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (3719395)

5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (s) (1381684)

5.35 Neighbours (s) (Ceefax) (s) (917435)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (4535)

6.30 Regional News magazines (787)

7.00 **Funny Girl: A Tribute to Marti Caine** (Ceefax) (s) (55348)

7.30 Here and Now. Includes the result of a two-year undercover investigation into the suffering of animals in some of Britain's top medical research establishments. (Ceefax) (s) (771)

8.00 How Do They Do That? How astronauts wash, cook and clean in space; how television chimpers learn to act; and how James Scott survived 41 days alone without food on the snow-covered Himalayas (147772)

9.00 Points of View (Ceefax) (s) (374232)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1313)

9.30 Silent Witness. Darkness Visible. Drama series about a forensic pathologist. Dr Ryan has to unravel the history behind a death in a police cell. (Ceefax) (s) (120042)

10.20 Sportsnight. Introduced by Tony Gubba. Boxing Scotland's Gary Jacobs v Spain's Edwin Morillo in the IBF intercontinental welterweight title. Cricket, highlights from today's first World Cup semi-final. Rugby, a preview of the last weekend of this year's five nations' championship; Rowing: Steven Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent prepare for the Olympics; Football: highlights of Nottingham Forest v Aston Villa (s) (270619)

12.10am FILM: Why Would I Lie? (1980) with Treat Williams and Lisa Eichhorn. A child-welfare officer with a habit of compulsively lying is desperate to hang onto his inheritance from his parents but has to swear in writing that he will use it wisely. Then he meets a young foster child who has been separated from his jailed mother and begins an attempt to reunite mother and child. Directed by Larry Pearce (Ceefax) (s) (557207)

1.50am Weather (4906955)

BBC2

6.00am Open University: Maths (986016) 6.25 Magnetic Earth (9776023) 6.50 Poetry: Language and History (598461)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (1885771)

7.30 Stingray (r) (Ceefax) (42435) 8.00 Run the Risk (r) (Ceefax) (5672416) 8.25 Wishing (r) (s) (6103416)

8.40 The Record (s) (6280740)

9.05 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (4780503)

2.00 Wishing (r) (s) (20779961)

2.10 The Andrew Neil Show. Viewers have the chance to question the newsmakers (s) (367435)

3.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (4516941) 3.20 The Day. History quiz (s) (400)

4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (684)

5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Advice on how to opt out of the aspirations and practices of a consumer society. (Ceefax) (s) (3971888) 5.40 A Week to Remember: 1956 (s/w) (6282265)

5.50 A Different Country: Practice: The Hospital. The last programme in the series looking at the work of the Airedale NHS Trust focuses on the general hospital where the latest equipment for emergency care is used to treat patients who cannot be treated at the local health centres (5262232)

6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. Sci-fi adventures (Ceefax) (s) (279654)

6.45 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century (r) (480503)

7.30 The Car's the Star. Quentin Wilson tells the story of the Land Rover (r) (Ceefax) (s) (622110)

7.50 A Bad Time to Be a Man: I Love Mike Tyson. An unemployed black man uses Mike Tyson's life to give a rare insight into why young British black men are more likely to identify with a convicted rapist than other role models. (Ceefax) (s) (433684)

8.00 Ken Hom's Hot Wok. Oriental cuisine series (Ceefax) (s) (9110)

8.30 University Challenge. Imperial College, London versus Lancaster University (Ceefax) (s) (1145)

9.00 Modern Times: Quality Time (Ceefax) (s) (364042)

10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (s) (895936)

11.15 Murder One: Chapter Two (r) (Ceefax) (s) (673329)

12.00 The Midnight Hour with Andrew Neil. Political chat show (s) (55004)

12.30-6.00am The Learning Zone

Family life with two nannies (9.00pm)

9.00 **Modern Times: Quality Time** (Ceefax) (s) (364042)

9.50 **A Man's World: Rites of Passage** (s) (31865)

10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (s) (895936)

11.15 Murder One: Chapter Two (r) (Ceefax) (s) (673329)

12.00 The Midnight Hour with Andrew Neil. Political chat show (s) (55004)

12.30-6.00am The Learning Zone

CHOICE

Funny Girl — A Tribute to Marti Caine BBC1, 7.00pm

Rather long after the event, as Marti Caine died in November, the BBC gets round to celebrating an entertainer who seems even better in retrospect than she did at the time. Marti Caine was a trailblazer, one of the first women to succeed at stand-up comedy with her wit and her smile. And that spoke of the pain of life. Asked during her battle with cancer where she got the courage to fight adversity, she replied: "I had a lot of practice." Her difficult early life in working-class Liverpool was echoed in much of her patter, even if she made light of hardship by turning it into jokes. And there was never any self-pity. Striking rather than beautiful, she deliberately mocked her long legs and skinny frame, and her hairstyles were extraordinary. Tributes come from Ken Dodd, Bob Monkhouse and Jim Davidson but not, curiously, from any women.

Murder One had two bald-headed men, just for the record. One of them, of course, was that most impressive Ted of all, Daniel Benzali, whom we may call here

The challenge for anybody doing a travel piece on Venice is to find ways of freshening the clichés. Pete McCarthy does his best, refining in his usual tendency to reduce everything to jokes and trying to give us a glimpse of Venice that the guidebooks miss. But there is a joke and it is a good one. The first prize in the local lottery is a car. In a city of waterways it is about the last thing anybody would want. The film is worth watching for the photography alone. If you find McCarthy irritating, turn the sound down and feast on the images. Another city, Montreal, is profiled by the Irish comedian Owen O'Neill. His wit underlines the persistence of French culture and includes a chat with Pierre Brassard, the disc jockey who became famous for 15 minutes with his hoax telephone call to the Queen.

Modern Times: Quality Time BBC2, 9.00pm

If Amanda Richardson's documentary was meant to win sympathy for busy working mothers trying to find time for their children, it backfires badly. The three women featured (the film chooses to ignore fathers, working or otherwise) seem only too glad to dump the kids on a nanny so that they can get on with the jobs they enjoy more. Janis, a public relations consultant, is divorced, and presumably needs to support herself. Caroline, another PR, admits that she prefers working to looking after her children, both under five, and you start to wonder why Dominique has children at all. Dominique works an 88-hour week in a family clothing business which has made her very rich. But her children are left crying for mummy. Even on holiday they are left with a nanny while Dominique spends her time shopping and doing business on the mobile phone.

A Man's World: Rites of Passage BBC2, 9.30pm

The oral history of masculinity moves on to the awkward transition from boy to man. In the first half of the 20th century it was more awkward than it is today. A carefully edited mixture of witness and archive film illuminates a time when boys were expected to display a masculine strength and toughness. At public school, games toughened up the body and Classics were considered more manly than English literature. Working-class youngsters showed their manliness in the pits or the travelling boxing booths. The film charts the various rites of passage, each with its own rituals. Relationships with women were sources of embarrassment and sex was fraught with ignorance and confusion. Marriage was almost a liberation, though the girl's father had to be asked first.

Peter Waymark

As HTV West except:

6.25pm-7.00am Wales Tonight (432585)

7.00pm-7.00am Wales Tonight (432585)

